

DAILY REPORT

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ASEAN-MIDEAST INVESTMENT SEMINAR OPENS IN KUALA LUMPUR

BK091600Y Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed today called for tripartite efforts among ASEAN, West Asia and the developed nations to provide a fine example of international economic cooperation. He linked this form of cooperation to a triangle of growth. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir, who is also the minister of trade and industry, was opening the 2-day ASEAN-West Asian investment conference in Kuala Lumpur.

He said ASEAN, which was a grouping of countries seeking to cooperate in all fields of international endeavor and which had virtually all the raw materials required by industrialized countries, formed the first base of this triangle. It also possessed abundant educated and skilled manpower, which could be used to transform these natural resources into goods and services for the benefit of the world. West Asia, which was a second base of the triangle, with oil wealth and financial accretment, has vast financial resources for productive utilization. The third base, comprised of developed nations like Japan, the United States and Europe, with technological, management and organizational ability, was vital to the success of any industrialization program.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir told the businessmen, financial experts and industrialists attending the seminar that they were well equipped and qualified to discuss how the natural resources and manpower of ASEAN, the financial resources and business accretment of West Asia and the technology skill of the developed nations could be fused together to create mutually beneficial opportunity. The minister said ASEAN recognized that businessmen undertook economic development activities to make profits. Such efforts are the best criteria for efficiency and success. But what the association expected is that, while waiting their due reward, the businessmen should assist ASEAN countries in their economic development.

Individual ASEAN countries have their own rules and regulations for investment. All investments would have to operate within these guidelines. The guidelines would insure that there was mutual benefit for all parties concerned, resulting from any bilateral or trilateral cooperative investments. Datuk Sri Mahathir said the Malaysian Government fully appreciated the need to maintain a sound and favorable investment climate as an essential prerequisite for private sector participation in the country's economic development. The deputy prime minister said there were several short term and long term advantages for investing in ASEAN countries, as opposed to investing in other areas.

THAI FOREIGN MINISTER RAISES REFUGEE ISSUE AT ESCAP

BK090420Y Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun mentioned the refugee problem in Thailand and the burden caused by it on the Thai Government, during the opening meeting of ESCAP. Because such a problem is social, humanitarian and international in nature, he said that various delegates had shown an interest in the refugee problem. The foreign minister added that assistance to the refugees and the Thai Government in caring for them on humanitarian grounds may be in many forms. Third countries may admit some refugees into their countries, he said; or assistance in cash and in (?kind) may also be useful--either directly to the Thai Government or through the UN High Commission for Refugees. The foreign minister pointed out that while the Thai Government wishes that the refugees would leave this country or return to their respective home countries, they must go out of Thailand willingly and must not be forced out. This is simply on humanitarian principles already agreed upon with the UN High Commission for Refugees.

TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON PANATA

OW100331Y Taipei CNA in English 0254 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Taipei, 10 Mar (CNA)--The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thursday reiterated the Republic of China's sovereignty over Nansha Archipelago.

"Nansha Archipelago is an integral part of the territories of the Republic of China. There is no doubt whatsoever that the sovereignty of Nansha Archipelago belongs to the Republic of China," Charles S.C. King, spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, said. King made the statement in reply to a question raised by the press regarding the alleged occupation by Philippine troops of Panata Island of Nansha Archipelago.

The full text of King's statement:

"Nansha Archipelago is an integral part of the territories of the Republic of China. There is no doubt whatsoever that the sovereignty of Nansha Archipelago belongs to the Republic of China.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has on a number of occasions issued statements to that effect. It now wishes to reiterate its position to the effect that no action taken by any party on any island of Nansha Archipelago would affect the sovereignty of the Republic of China over it."

CHINA AIRLINES STATEMENT DENIES HIJACKING REPORT

OW091505Y Taipei CNA in English 1448 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Taipei, 9 Mar (CNA)--A vice president of China Airlines and several substitute crew were leaving for Hong Kong Thursday night aboard a Boeing 727 jet after a reported abortive hijack of a CAL passenger plane originated from the southern port city of Kaohsiung.

CAL Vice President Su Hsiang and the new crew would seek to bring the 101 passengers back to Taipei and if possible, the would-be hijacked jet, according to CAL sources.

A CAL statement released early Thursday night apparently denied foreign wire service reports that Shih Ming-cheng, the would-be hijacker, was trying to commandeer the plane. "The incident occurred when Shih, the flight engineer, started a quarrel with the pilot and the co-pilot shortly before the plane, Flight 831, was to land at Kai Tak International Airport in Hong Kong. "They began to fight soon after," the statement said.

"To protect the passengers, the pilot and the co-pilot managed to overpower Shih and led the plane to land safely....Shih died on his way to hospital after the plane landed," the statement said. The statement also said the pilot, Kao Chih-shiang, and the co-pilot, Kung Chung-kang, were injured, but all passengers and the rest of the nine-member crew were unhurt.

BRIEFS

NUCLEAR GENERATOR--Taipei, 3 Mar--The first generating unit of the No 1 nuclear power plant of the Taiwan Power Company will reach its commercial capacity by the end of this month. A spokesman for the state-run enterprise reported Friday that the generating capacity of the generator has reached 75 percent of its installed capacity, or 470,000 kilowatts to date. The generator will generate 636,000 kw once it reaches full capacity, the spokesman said. [Excerpt] [Taipei CNA in English 1014 GMT 3 Mar 78 OW]

USHIBA LIKELY TO VISIT U.S. TO DISCUSS STABILIZING DOLLAR

OW100529Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 10 Mar (KYODO)--Chief Cabinet Secretary Shintaro Abe indicated Friday that the government will dispatch Nobuhiko Ushiba, minister for external economic affairs, to Washington soon to ask the U.S. Government to take steps to stabilize the dollar's value. Abe dropped the hint when he met the press after a meeting of the Ministerial Council to which the Economic Planning Agency submitted its monthly economic report.

He said the government would hold a meeting of cabinet ministers concerned with economic affairs Saturday evening to discuss measures to curtail the nation's balance of payments surplus in connection with the yen's fresh appreciation against the dollar since the beginning of this week. Abe said the view is strong in the government that a cabinet minister should be dispatched to Washington to ask the U.S. Government to implement more vigorous measures for stabilization of the dollar's value. He said who will be dispatched on the mission will be decided at Saturday's meeting of economic affairs ministers.

But he added Ushiba would most likely be the special envoy. He said Kiichi Miyazawa, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, cannot make such a trip at present because the Diet is now in session. It would be easier for Ushiba to take up the mission than Miyazawa under present circumstances, he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda said the special envoy would be sent in the "very near future," when asked by reporters about the timing of the envoy's dispatch. He also said the United States should make efforts to strengthen the dollar's value. Government sources said if Ushiba is named as the special envoy, Michiya Matsukawa, vice-finance minister for international affairs, will accompany him on the mission.

Fukuda on Yen Appreciation

OW100929Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 10 Mar (KYODO)--Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda suggested Friday the government will soon announce a package of measures to cope with the yen's continued rise. Replying to opposition questions before the House of Councillors budget committee, Fukuda said the government "has fundamental ideas" about what to do to keep the yen from rising further. But he did not elaborate. He said this is a "delicate" problem, adding that the government is taking a cautious attitude.

Fukuda said the purchase of aircraft from abroad is being considered as part of an emergency import program to help reduce Japan's large trade surplus, a main factor behind the yen's appreciation. He said he has no "definite idea" about the proposed dispatch to Washington of a cabinet minister to appeal for quick U.S. action to defend the dollar's sagging value.

Fukuda reiterated the importance of three basic policies to hold down the yen's rise--full American efforts to stabilize the dollar's exchange rate, Japanese cooperation in helping improve the U.S. trade balance now deep in the red, and Japan's efforts to cut its trade surplus. If the surplus tends to decline, it will contribute "considerably" to calming the current monetary unrest, he added.

Asked if it has become difficult to attain the government's 7 percent growth target for fiscal 1978, beginning 1 April, as a result of the deflationary impact of the yen's rise, Fukuda said he will try to realize the goal "by all means" and added the government has no intention of revising it downward.

Miyazawa: Darkened Economic Outlook

OW100533Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 10 Mar (KYODO)--Kiichi Miyazawa, director general of the Economic Planning Agency [EPA], expressed concern Friday that domestic business activities may slump again as a result of the yen's fresh appreciation.

In a monthly EPA report on the domestic economy, Miyazawa said some bright spots have become discernible as a result of the adoption of supplementary budgets and progress in inventory adjustments. But, he said, the yen's fresh appreciation since the beginning of this week darkens the nation's economic outlook once again.

The fresh appreciation of the yen, he said, came against the backdrop of the nation's ever-increasing balance of payments in January, he said. Japan had a current account surplus of 1,562 billion dollars after seasonal adjustments, up sharply from the previous month. The overall balance was also in the black by 1,577 billion dollars, as a result of increased foreign investments in Japanese securities, he added. In order to stem further rise in the yen's value and avert its deflationary impact on the domestic economy, Miyazawa said, it is necessary to take steps to reduce the nation's balance of payments surplus quickly.

The report said that as a result of smooth execution of the supplementary budgets, the government's spending on public works registered a whopping increase of 46.8 percent in February over a year earlier, following a 22.1 percent rise in the previous month.

Liquidation of swollen inventories of unsold products is also progressing smoothly, the report said. According to the Bank of Japan, inventories in the manufacturing industries decreased 3.8 percent in the first quarter of this year from the final quarter of last year, it said. The drop followed a 1.7 percent [as received] in the preceding quarter, it added. As a result, the production and shipment indexes showed rises of 1.1 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively, in February, both for the third consecutive monthly again, according to the report. Private plant and equipment investments have also begun to recover, although slowly. The employment situation, however, has not yet showed any sign of improvement, the report noted.

Ohira: Government Efforts 'Insufficient'

OW101303Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1248 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 10 Mar (KYODO)--Masayoshi Ohira, secretary general of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, said Friday the government should urge the U.S. to take effective steps to defend the declining dollar. Speaking at a Nippon Kisha (National Press) Club luncheon in Tokyo, Ohira said government efforts in this respect are still insufficient.

The weak dollar has caused a great deal of trouble in the world and the U.S. should take to heart the important role of the dollar as a key currency, he pointed out. "The U.S. should have sympathy for poor countries," he said. He noted that under the floating exchange system the Fukuda cabinet alone could not control exchange rates.

MITI OFFICIALS DISPATCHED TO ASSIST TRADE MISSION IN U.S.

OW091015Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 9 Mar (KYODO)--Minoru Masuda, vice minister for international affairs of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, left Tokyo for the United States Thursday [9 March] to assist the private trade mission now in that country to promote imports of American goods. The mission is led by Yoshizo Ikeda, president of Mitsui and Co. Masuda was accompanied by Keijiro Nishiyama, a Miti official.

Masuda will join the mission in Washington and participate in talks to be held with U.S. Government officials. Nishiyama will take part in the meeting of the Japan-U.S. joint Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC), to be held in Washington 14 March, to discuss ways for increasing U.S. exports to Japan. Masuda is due to return to Tokyo 19 March via Canada, and Nishiyama, 15 March.

FUKUDA, ROK MP'S DISCUSS SHELF TREATY, MILITARY EXERCISE

OW091049Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 9 Mar (KYODO)--Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda Thursday told South Korean lawmakers that the largest pending issue for the Japanese Diet was legislation for implementation of the Japan-South Korea agreement for development of the continental shelf between the two nations.

Fukuda also met with another group of five South Korean parliamentarians on defense later in the day and asked them about the U.S.-South Korea joint war games under way in Korea since Tuesday.

YANO-LED KOMEITO DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR PRC 10 MARCH

OW100617Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 10 Mar (KYODO)--A five-member Komeito mission, led by Secretary General Junya Yano, left Tokyo for Peking Friday afternoon for an 8-day goodwill visit to China.

During their stay in China, the mission members are planning to meet with Chinese leaders to promote Japan-China friendship. Although Komeito has sent missions to China five times in the past, this is the first time that Yano will be visiting the country.

LDP DELEGATION TO CONVEY FUKUDA LETTER TO AS-SADAT

OW091229Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 9 Mar (KYODO)--Four dietmen of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party are scheduled to be in Egypt Sunday for a visit, carrying with them a letter from Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda to President Anwar as-Sadat. The four include Tadashi Kuranari, former director general of the Economic Planning Agency.

Fukuda, receiving the quartet at his official residence Thursday, expressed the belief that President as-Sadat would be able to visit Japan this year in response to an invitation extended earlier.

Fukuda said he was studying the matter of making a visit himself to Egypt in the future as advised by Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda.

FURTHER COMPROMISE REJECTED IN NEW ZEALAND TRADE DISPUTE

OW100449Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0356 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 10 Mar (KYODO)--Japan has told New Zealand it has no intention of making any new compromise proposal to settle the two countries' trade dispute. Taichiro Okawara, vice minister of agriculture and forestry, made this known in his meeting Thursday with New Zealand Ambassador Roderick M. Miller.

The move dashed the growing hope in New Zealand that Japan might invite a New Zealand Government leader to visit Tokyo to show a new compromise bid. Japan recently declined New Zealand's request for special measures to step up imports of beef, dry skim milk and other farm products from New Zealand.

Okawara asked Miller to reassess the proposal made by ex-Agriculture and Forestry Minister Zenko Suzuki, who visited Wellington recently as a special Japanese envoy, in the interest of a long-term trade expansion between the two countries. At the same time, Okawara asked for a swift start of negotiations over Japanese fishing in New Zealand's 200-mile fishery zone.

Miller promised to convey the Japanese wishes to Wellington, but said his government has no intention of sending a senior official to Tokyo for talks on the problem. [sentence as received]

AGRICULTURE MINISTER TO VISIT MOSCOW ON SALMON IMPASSE

OW090049Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0034 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpt] Tokyo, 9 Mar (KYODO)--The government is planning to dispatch Agriculture-Forestry Minister Ichiro Nakagawa to Moscow late this month in order to break the present impasse in Japan-Soviet negotiations on salmon fishing operation on the high seas. This was revealed Wednesday night by a government source.

THREAT OF ACCIDENT SEEN IN U.S. AMMUNITION SHIPMENTS

OW100117Y Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 8 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 9 OW

[Text] Kadena--As U.S. forces transport their ammunition through traffic-congested residential areas, the lives of local residents are being put in danger. A number of accidents involving ammunition falling off U.S. military trucks occurred in Okinawa City and Gindza-son on 29 and 30 August last year. At that time these accidents put fear in the hearts of the residents; as a result, the residents lodged a protest. Since U.S. military exercises have recently become more intensified, ammunition shipments have been more frequent. Consequently, a greater danger is present. At 1430 on 7 March, trucks loaded with ammunition and marked "danger" left Kadena airbase; the base was bustling with activity because of the U.S.-ROK joint exercise. The ammunition was moved to Tengan, Gushikawa city, via Kadena circle, Nakatomari, and the main street of Ishikawa city.

The ammunition had entered Kadena airbase aboard a C-130 Hercules transport plane. The ammunition was loaded onto trucks marked "explosives" and "danger"; then, with a jeep escorting the trucks, the ammunition was slowly transported. With a pick-up truck bringing up the rear, the ammunition-filled trucks traveled on an underground road linking Kadena airbase to the ammunition depot; then they continued onto prefectural Highway 16. Entering the traffic-congested circle, the trucks traveled at a snail's pace and were forced to repeatedly stop and start over a slightly rugged section of the road passing through Nakatomari and Ishikawa. This entire process indicates "hazardous shipment."

The U.S. servicemen who were involved in these shipments declined to say what kind of explosives had been loaded onto their trucks and whether or not the explosives were defused. The trucks traveled through the main, store-line streets of Kadena and Ishikawa, but very few residents noticed.

Ammunition-filled trucks constantly shuttle through residential areas while ammunition is shipped to training areas in Kin, Ginoza, and Onna-son. The neighborhood residents have always been put in danger. During firing exercises, 89mm howitzers have been used at the marine base, Camp Hansen; 155mm howitzers have been fired across prefectural Highway 104 and mortars are fired from gun position No 6 in Yafuso, Onna-son to Onna hill almost daily. These shells have all been transported across land from Kadena's ammunition depot; therefore, the threat of an accident always exists.

SENAGA INTERVIEWED ON 21 FEBRUARY MEETING WITH BAXTER

OW070749Y Tokyo AKAHATA in Japanese 28 Feb 78 p 4 OW

[Interview by unidentified reporter with Kamejiro Senaga, vice chairman of the JCP Presidium, on his 21 February meeting at Kadena Airbase with Brig Gen Walter H. Baxter, commander of the 313th Air Division and 18th Tactical Fighter Wing--date not given]

[Test] [Question] Yours was the first Japan Communist Party [JCP] delegation to formally meet with a commander of the U.S. Air Force on Okinawa and ask about various U.S. military aspects there?

[Answer] That is right. The JCP has often been engaged in base investigations but our JCP delegation--representing the party--met for the first time face to face with the leader of a U.S. military base. Since before Okinawa's reversion to Japan the JCP, using only facts, has persistently tackled such issues as U.S. introduction of nuclear weapons into Okinawa and maneuvers to turn Okinawa into a nuclear base. As a result of this effort the JCP was able to reveal facts about nuclear bombing exercises and training on coping with accidents involving nuclear weapons. Our party also uncovered various facts on this issue from the period prior to reversion: We uncovered secret information that four types of nuclear bombs were stored at the Kadena ammunition dump and that several accidents involving real nuclear weapons took place at both the Naha and Kadena airbases.

In this context, we attached great importance to the recent interview with the Kadena U.S. airbase commander.

[Question] Where did you actually meet with Commander Baxter?

[Answer] We met him at the commander's room. In the room we saw various flags arranged in a row, including the stars and stripes and unit flags for the 313th Air Division, 18th Tactical Fighter Wing and 400th Munitions Maintenance Squadron. They apparently symbolized his No 1 post at Kadena Airbase.

Sitting beside Commander Baxter was Vice Commander Williams. When we asked him his name after the interview, he said: "My name is here," showing the last page of a copy of a document we had given him at the start of the interview. The document, which originated at Kadena Airbase, dealt with exercise "Broken Arrow"--training in serious accidents involving nuclear weapons.

[Question] Did he really say that, even pointing out his name on the copy himself?

[Answer] Yes, he did. We felt somewhat that he was taking his hat off to our barrage of questions which were much to the point.

[Question] ... the response of Commander Baxter?

[Answer] I started my questioning by saying that I would like to speak frankly. At the outset of the interview he said that "accidents not involving nuclear weapons also become the focus of exercise 'Broken Arrow.'" To refute his assertions, I cited the Air Force manual, which is the "supreme code" concerning regulations in the U.S. Air Force, instructions from the U.S. Defense Department, and congressional remarks by U.S. leaders. After citing them, I asked him: "Isn't it true that exercise 'Broken Arrow' solely involves accidents caused by nuclear weapons?" and "Isn't PAL (the nuclear bomb triggering device)--on which training is conducted at Kadena Airbase--deployed only in Europe and designated areas in the Far East and nowhere else?"

[Question] It seems to me that you based your assertions only on facts.

[Answer] That is right. I directed a barrage of questions at Commander Baxter while citing various objective data which even he--a U.S. military leader--could not deny. He eventually revealed his understanding of our assertions. For example, he was unexpectedly frank when he said that "it probably would be so if the remark was made during congressional testimony."

Thus, in the 1 hour and 45 minute interview, he admitted that his troops conduct two kinds of nuclear exercises and that each exercise is carried out more than four times yearly. In answering another question, he also said he understands exercise "Broken Arrow" is also conducted at Yokota base in Tokyo. In addition he made further disclosures on deployment of safety personnel to assure safe handling of nuclear weapons and a specific program for personnel management. Thus he admitted various important facts which indicate that Kadena Airbase has been organized into a permanent nuclear base.

[Question] You have just referred to a specific program for the management of personnel handling nuclear weapons. Isn't this program called the "human reliability program?"

[Answer] Yes, it is. Out of a total of about 8,500 troops at Kadena Airbase, "more than 1,000" are involved in this management program. The program is designed for safe handling of nuclear weapons, and each person covered by the program is subject to a thorough scrutiny of his individual life, his family life and ideological orientation. Thus under this program, a person handling nuclear weapons will gradually be turned into a "computerized robot" which, stripped of all traces of humanity, only works for nuclear management. This is why there are continuous cases of neuroticism and drug abuse. This could also be the reason why top base leaders check the list of personnel involved in the program as Commander Baxter himself admitted.

[Question] What do you think your investigation has revealed overall?

[Answer] As pointed out by Secretariat Chief Fuwa, our investigation has very clearly revealed that Kadena Airbase is not merely the latest U.S. Air Force base in Asia but is also "a nuclear base having the six functions necessary" for such a base.

I mean that we have found that Kadena Airbase conducts 1) nuclear bombing exercises; 2) training in the handling of the nuclear bomb triggering device (PAL training); 3) training for accidents involving nuclear weapons; 4) training in dealing with the theft of nuclear weapons; 5) deployment of safety personnel to prepare for the possibility of nuclear mishaps; and that 6) the base has personnel assigned to handle nuclear weapons. It is clear that in every respect the base is fully prepared for a nuclear strike unit to mount an attack in case of crisis.

[Question] Since the Fukuda cabinet is doing nothing about the people's suspicions concerning nuclear weapons, we feel that your meeting with the U.S. military commander was a fruitful one. Isn't this so?

[Answer] When answering my questions at an interpellation session at the House of Representatives in January, the prime minister made a high-handed remark that "the stationing of U.S. forces in Japan will simply be meaningless if they only sit idly by without even carrying out exercises." Consequently I believe our recent visit finally revealed what kind of exercises U.S. forces have actually been carrying out and what a dangerous role they have been playing.

I recall the previous three prime ministers--Sato, Tanaka, and Miki--often mentioning "the difficulties of the residents in Okinawa prefecture." I do not know if this came from the bottom of their hearts, but it is regrettable that we never find the same phrase in any of Fukuda's speeches.

I believe, however, that people in Japan, including residents of Okinawa prefecture, will not tolerate further repression.

I believe now is the time for them to step up their struggle against these dangerous moves and to struggle for the real peace and independence of Japan and the security of its people.

[Question] The U.S. military authorities seem to feel that nothing is wrong with turning Japan into a nuclear base. Don't you agree?

[Answer] Yes, I do. I understand that Commander Baxter has served in various parts of the world, including Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand. However he seemed to feel that our sharp questioning on nuclear matters was rather strange or peculiar. He said that "the nuclear weapon is less dangerous than the typhoon." He also said: "As far as I know, there are only five people who are so concerned about nuclear weapons. Of these five, four gentlemen are here with us today." Who could be the fifth person? As Commander Baxter said this, I guess he had in mind our four-man delegation and Secretariat Chief Fuwa--who earlier took up the nuclear issue at a Diet session.

At any rate it is absolutely unpardonable for Japan to allow the United States to bring in nuclear weapons and enable it to mount a nuclear attack from Japan in the event of a crisis. I believe that the frequent flights to Okinawa by strategic B-52 bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons under the pretext of "finding shelter from a typhoon" are nothing but part of maneuvers to "innure people to the presence of nuclear arms."

A few days after we met with Commander Baxter, a statement by the chief of the Kadena Airbase Information Office was carried in the ASAHI EVENING NEWS. The statement particularly stressed that he can neither deny nor affirm whether PAL training is conducted on the base. This could be an indication that our fierce questioning really touched a nerve in them.

BRIEFS

JSP DELEGATION TO EUROPE--Tokyo, 9 Mar--The opposition Japan Socialist Party Thursday decided to send a four-man delegation to Europe for interchanges with communist parties of countries in the area. The mission, to leave on 16 March, is scheduled to attend the forthcoming Italian Socialist Party convention. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW]

DENUNCIATION OF TEAM SPIRIT '78 EXERCISE CONTINUES

U.S. 'Racing to Brink of War'

SK100450Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--In the current criminal "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" the U.S. imperialists have massed large armed forces in the area immediately south of the military demarcation line and are rendering the situation strained by their provocations with this zone as the operational theatre.

By 9 March the "Smith unit" of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division brought from Hawaii, the "Lance" missile unit from the U.S. mainland, the troops of the U.S. 2d Infantry Division occupying South Korea and the huge puppet forces had been massed in the area near the military demarcation line to be engaged in the feverish military gamble, according to a report. They have hurled there even the "Homeland Defence Reserve Forces," a detached force of the puppet army.

For three consecutive days after the start of the military manoeuvre, an "airlift operation," an exercise of transferring military men and equipment, a training of tank, artillery and infantry mobilization and a gun firing rehearsal were conducted and a manoeuvre of "Lance" missile unit took place.

To create a strained atmosphere, the U.S. imperialists let the U.S. and puppet air force planes make hundreds of sorties and raise a war din in the air above the southern area near the military demarcation line. And on 9 March they let fly such warplanes as "F-111," "F-4E Phantom," "A-7D" and "RF-4C Phantom" introduced from outside South Korea for an exercise of guided missile firing at imaginary "enemy planes." For threatening someone they sent "B-52" strategic bombers into the air to be engaged in an "interception action", accompanied with refueling in the air.

While preparing for a landing operation of U.S. and puppet marines on the sea near Kanghwa-Do Island in the West Sea, the U.S. imperialists mobilised carriers Midway and Tripoli and other warships belonging to the U.S. 7th Fleet and puppet naval ships and let them conduct "mine-sweeping exercise" and "anti-submarine operation," firing guns on the South and East seas.

Such provocative military manoeuvre staged by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique, their stooge, is a war hysteria and reckless war gamble intended to aggravate tension in Korea and start a new war of aggression against our people. It is also a vicious challenge insulting the unanimous desire of the entire Korean people and the world revolutionary people for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and is a heinous criminal act threatening peace in Asia and the world.

The provocations of the U.S. imperialists who are rendering the situation strained with the area immediately south of the military demarcation line as the main theatre of the military exercise, clearly show that they are rushing headlong to the brink of war to realize their aggressive designs on the northern half of the republic.

With no desperate attempt, however, can the U.S. imperialists ever attain their aggressive aim. They should draw a proper lesson from the ignominious defeat they suffered in their war of aggression against the Korean people and discontinue their reckless criminal act of racing to the brink of war.

Rogers' Statements Scored

SK100440Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0420 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--Rogers, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, declared on 7 March that in the face of a war in Korea, "the United States would send its elite military strike forces to trouble spots," according to a report from Washington. He said that the ongoing provocative "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" is aimed at "expressing the presence of U.S. forces in the Pacific region" and demonstrating "U.S. determination to firmly observe the South Korea-U.S. defense treaty."

Rogers' outburst makes it clear that the "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" which involves over 100,000 troops of all arms and services of the U.S. and South Korean puppet armed forces is chiefly aimed at a military attack on the northern half of the republic and perfection of the plan for a war of northward aggression.

The U.S. imperialists are trying to drive the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique more feverishly to the execution of their dangerous war plan. This was fully disclosed by Rogers' talk about "observing commitments" of the United States to the puppets.

All the acts of the U.S. imperialists eloquently prove that, for all their lip-service to "troop pullout," they are, in actuality, hastening powder-reeking war preparations behind its smokescreen and working desperately to create "two Koreas" by freezing division and occupy South Korea permanently and, furthermore, to realize their aggressive designs on the whole of Korea.

It can never be tolerated that the U.S. imperialists are staging a reckless war gamble against the trend of the times at a time when the Korean people and all the world's people wish an early realisation of the peaceful reunification of Korea.

If the U.S. imperialists think that they can frighten the Korean people with the threat of "strength," it is a miscalculation. The U.S. imperialists should behave with discretion, pondering over the irretrievable consequences that might be spelled by their policy of "strength" and dangerous war clamour.

NODONG SINMUN Commentary

SK100554Y Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2245 GMT 9 Mar 78 SK

[NODONG SINMUN 10 March commentary: "An Extremely Dangerous Playing With Fire Near the Military Demarcation Line"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique desperately launched a criminal military exercise on 7 March in spite of the strong protests of the DPRK and world peoples. Their playing with fire has reached a peak, further exposing them as true war maniacs.

The U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique, in their playing with fire, are firing artillery and dropping bombs, according to a report. Having deployed units of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, which sneaked in from Hawaii to the eastern sector of the front at dawn on 7 March, they have now moved infantry and armored units to the so-called "operations area" near the demarcation line. While warships of the U.S. 7th Fleet, including the carriers Midway and Tripoli and warships of the puppet navy conduct sea-sweeping training and antisubmarine operations, the U.S. and the puppet air forces are making bombing rackets and running amuck in such exercises as troop airlift operations and guided missile launching operations.

Having completed deployment on 7 March in an area close to the military demarcation line, a Lance missile unit has been frenziedly carrying out war exercises along with the U.S. and puppet forces there.

This vicious war exercise racket is directly commanded and controlled by the U.S. [word indistinct].

In connection with this aggressive war exercise, the so-called chief of staff of the U.S. Armed Forces clamored that in case of an emergency in Korea they would immediately intervene.

Because of this war exercise racket by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique, areas close to the demilitarized zone south of the military demarcation line are enveloped in flames and gunsmoke. The southern areas of the military demarcation line have been transformed into power-reeking battle grounds tense with a wartime atmosphere.

This extremely dangerous playing with fire conducted near the military demarcation line is an open challenge to the DPRK and the world peoples who seek the independent and peaceful reunification of our country, and is a serious crime threatening peace in Asia and the world.

U.S. withdrawal from South Korea and an end to their splittist acts and war maneuvers there is the desire of all Korean people and the demand of the time. However, the U.S. imperialists, running counter to the demand of the time and the will of our people, cling to their policy of occupying South Korea, threaten the Korean people with "strength" and are maneuvering to start a new aggressive war, thus blocking Korea's reunification.

This is clearly proved by the large-scale war exercise the U.S. imperialists are now launching in South Korea. Moreover, the following shows more clearly its policy of forcibly occupying South Korea and preparing for a new war: They mobilized for this large-scale military exercise such means of attack as the nuclear attack carrier Midway, B-52 strategic bombers which can carry nuclear bombs, atomic submarines which can fire nuclear missiles, and such vast attack forces as the U.S. 3d amphibious unit which usually conducts landing operations as a ground assault unit, the U.S. 18th Tactical Fighter Wing and the U.S. 25th Infantry Division--a unit designed for attacking foreign countries.

Furthermore, this military exercise stems from an "emergency mobilization plan" for deploying units to Korea at any time, and every phase of the military exercise is invariably an "attack operation" simulating a new aggressive war. These various operations are being conducted mainly in areas near the military demarcation line with us within shooting range.

These facts indicate that the U.S. imperialists' military exercise in South Korea stems from their intention to grasp South Korea in order to attack us and, moreover, that they do not hesitate to run the risk of nuclear war in achieving their aggressive aims against Korea.

The U.S. Army chief of staff raved about the "immediate involvement" of U.S. strike forces in connection with the opening of this U.S.-Korea joint operational exercise, and declared that this signifies the continued existence of the United States as a western Pacific power. This shows the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression against Korea and plainly reveals the United States' sinister intentions in this military exercise racket.

We still remember that before they provoked the last Korean war, the U.S. imperialists strengthened the South Korean puppet forces, reinforced their military equipment and deployed huge aggressive forces in South Korea to engage, with the puppet forces, in reckless military provocations and war game rackets against us.

The U.S. imperialists are the war maniacs and chief instigators of aggression disturbing peace and heightening tension. But if they hope to gain something through this "policy of strength," this is totally senseless.

The Korean people have already faced more than once the "threat of strength" from the U.S. imperialists in the Pueblo incident, the EC-121 incident and the Panmunjom incident. Our people will never tolerate criminal attempts by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys to disturb peace and oppose the nation's independent and peaceful reunification. The U.S. imperialists should discard their anachronistic delusions, immediately stop their foolish war racket and withdraw from South Korea with all of their aggressive forces without delay.

MINJU CHOSON Scores Rogers Statement

OW101031Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--It was reported that the chief of staff of the U.S. Army said that the purpose of the ongoing "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" lay in demonstrating U.S. "determination" to firmly observe the "South Korea-U.S. defense treaty" and expressing the "presence" of U.S. forces in the Pacific region. He also claimed that South Korea is "one of potential crisis spots" to which U.S. "military strike forces" would be sent.

MINJU CHOSON today in a commentary lashing at this provocative statement, says: This statement is an open revelation of the aggressive intention of the U.S. imperialists and a bellicose jargon instigating the puppets to reckless war provocation.

The commentator [as received] remarks: When he talked about the "South Korea-U.S. defense treaty" the chief of staff of the U.S. Army disclosed the U.S. imperialists' design to keep their troops in South Korea as ever and give military support to the puppets in case a war of aggression breaks out in Korea. His statement that South Korea is a spot to which the U.S. "military strike forces" would be sent means that large aggression forces of U.S. imperialism will be sent to South Korea in case a war of aggression is unleashed in Korea.

Words and deeds of the U.S. imperialists fully prove that the current military exercise is a criminal war game to hasten the preparations for a new war in Korea and dispatch U.S. imperialist aggression forces on a massive scale to the Korean front in the future.

Their "defense" of the surprise attack "defense" is a hollow lie to camouflage the aggressive purpose of the military exercise. They had better ponder over the consequences which may be entailed by their indiscreet war game.

PYONGYANG SINMUN Commentary

OW091617Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 9 Mar (KCNA)--The adventurous military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique is a war frenzy and a reckless play with fire intended to harass peace and security, key up tension and start a new war in Korea. Our people indignantly brand their reckless war manoeuvre as a grave violation of peace and security in Korea and Asia and an insulting challenge to the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people who desire the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. So says PYONGYANG SINMUN today commenting on the military exercise started by the U.S. imperialists and the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique on 7 March.

The commentator [as received] points out: It goes without saying that this criminal act of the U.S. imperialists pursues the aim of harassing peace in Korea, obstructing her peaceful reunification and staying on in South Korea.

Facts show how recklessly they are acting to disturb peace in Korea, frighten the Korean people with "strength," hamper the reunification of Korea and start a new war of aggression. Facts also eloquently tell how hard they are at work to boost up the morale of the Pak Chong-hui puppet clique which has landed itself in a serious crisis, thoroughly isolated and rejected within and without, and encourage it to maintain the military fascist rule in South Korea and, at the same time, to drive it out to a war gamble against the northern half of the republic.

The commentary stresses: The U.S. imperialists must look squarely at the trend of the times and stop the dangerous military manoeuvre. They must withdraw their armed forces of aggression at once from South Korea in accordance with the UN resolution and their own pledges.

TASS, ADN Denounce Exercise

SK100435Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--It was reported that the TASS and ADN news agencies denounced the provocative "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

TASS on 7 March issued a report under the title "Tension Is Aggravated", upon the start of the criminal military game in South Korea. It said: The KYODO NEWS SERVICE of Japan pointed out that the 11-day military exercise is aimed at perfecting the joint operation of units of all arms of the U.S. forces and South Korean Army in face of the so-called "emergency state on the Korean Peninsula." We are told that they are countering an "emergency state" under condition of an imaginary "invasion from north of the demilitarized zone and start of the second Korean war."

This provocative manoeuvre has caused uneasiness in the Japanese public and invited their protest.

TASS also conveyed an editorial article of "ASAHI SHIMBUN" on 7 March stating that in case of an emergency on the Korean Peninsula, U.S. forces would enter into action from the Japanese territory and Yokota and other U.S. military bases will be used as its strongholds.

Reporting from Tokyo the start of the "joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise" in South Korea, ADN said: A number of Japanese scholars and intellectuals published a statement, in which they pointed out that this manoeuvre aggravates tension in the Korean Peninsula and threatens peace in Japan and the rest of Asia and demanded an immediate stop to the war exercise and withdrawal of all U.S. troops from South Korea.

KIM SENDS CONDOLENCES TO HONECKER ON DEATH OF SED OFFICIALS

OW091647Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1612 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 9 March (KCNA)--The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent a message of condolence to Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party on the passing away of Werner Lamberz, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party, and Paul Markowski, member, and head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the party, in an unexpected accident. The message of condolence reads:

Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee, German Socialist Unity Party
Berlin

Upon hearing the sad news that Comrade Werner Lamberz, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party, and Comrade Paul Markowski, member, and head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the party, died in an unexpected accident, I express deep condolences to you and to the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party and the bereaved families of the deceased.

Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee, Workers Party of Korea
Pyongyang, March 9, 1978

Cadres Express Condolences

SK100415Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 March (KCNA)--Cadres of our country on 9 March visited the embassy of the German Democratic Republic in Pyongyang and expressed condolences on the death of Comrade Werner Lamberz, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party, and Comrade Paul Markowski, member, and head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the party, in an unexpected accident.

Comrade So Chol, Comrade Kim Hwan, Kim Yong-son and other personages concerned visited the GDR Embassy, laid a wreath in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and observed a moment's silence in memory of the deceased.

Functionaries of the Foreign Ministry, the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea and the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union visited the embassy and expressed condolences.

Envoys Express Condolences

SK100420Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--Diplomatic envoys and staffers of different embassies here on 9 March visited the embassy of the German Democratic Republic in Pyongyang and expressed condolences on the death of Comrade Werner Lamberz, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Central Committee of the German Socialist Unity Party, and Comrade Paul Markowski, member, and head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the party, in an unexpected accident.

They observed a moment's silence in memory of the deceased.

REPORTAGE ON PAK SONG-CHOL'S ACTIVITIES IN MADAGASCAR

27 February Talks, Banquet

OW041705Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1601 GMT 4 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 4 Mar (KCNA)--Talks were held on 27 February between the party and government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice-president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on a visit to Madagascar, and the party and government delegation of Madagascar, according to a report.

Present at the talks on our side were all the members of the delegation.

Present on the opposite side were Desire Rakotoarijaona, prime minister; Charles Ravaojanahary, member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and political member of the Vanguard of Revolution; and the minister of transport, the minister of finance and planning, the general secretary of the ministry of foreign affairs, the director of the secretariat of the presidential office and the chief secretary of the prime minister's office.

Views were exchanged at the talks on further strengthening and developing the relations of militant friendship and cooperation between the two countries and matters of common concern. The talks proceeded in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

On the same day the Malagasy prime minister hosted a banquet in honour of the party and government delegation of our country. Invited to the banquet were all the members of the delegation and the DPRK ambassador to Madagascar.

Present there were members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council Charles Ravaojanahary, Arsene Ratsifehera and Max Marson; and political members of the Vanguard of Revolution, ministers and other personages concerned. Diplomatic envoys of various countries to Madagascar were invited.

The banquet was addressed by Malagasy prime minister and vice-president Pak Song-chol [as received].

Saying that President Kim Il-song, the respected and beloved leader of the courageous Korean people, stressed the justice of the anti-imperialist revolutionary cause of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples, he [as received] respectfully quoted the teaching of the great leader: "Just as the forces of capital are international, so the liberation struggle of the peoples has an international character. The revolutionary movements in individual countries are national movements, and at the same time, constitute part of the world revolution."

The peoples of Madagascar and Korea, he stressed, are waving a righteous struggle shoulder to shoulder on the road of socialism against imperialism, their common enemy.

Asking the delegation to convey the revolutionary warm greetings of the president, the Supreme Revolutionary Council and the Government of Madagascar to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, he said: The militant friendship between the two peoples is the fruit of the unshakable exemplary friendship formed between the great leader President Kim Il-song and President Didier Ratsiraka, the leader of the Malagasy socialist revolution.

Expressing support to the Korean people in their cause of national reunification, he said: Madagascar once again sternly denounces all the despicable plots hatched by the domestic and foreign splittists to perpetuate the division of Korea with the "cross recognition theory" and "simultaneous UN membership."

The attendants of the banquet toasted the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the good health and long life of the outstanding leader of the Malagasy revolution President Didier Ratsiraka.

The banquet proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Mass Welcome Meeting

OW061621Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1556 GMT 6 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 6 Mar (KCNA)--The party and government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice-president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on a visit to Madagascar, went to Tamatave, a local city of Madagascar, by special plane on 1 March, according to a report.

Accompanying the delegation on its local tour were Charles Ravaojanahary and Etienne Mora, members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and political members of the Vanguard of Revolution, the minister of transport and the general secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

The delegation was met at the airport by the parents of the president of Madagascar, Jean de Dieu Randriantany, member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, the chairman of the Executive Committee of Tamatave Province, and other personages concerned. The parents of the president asked the head of the delegation to convey their sincere greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and heartily wished him good health and a long life.

A mass meeting welcoming the party and government delegation of our country was held at the Tamatave stadium. Attending the meeting together with more than 10,000 citizens were the parents of the president of Madagascar, officials of Madagascar accompanying the delegation and leading personages of Tamatave Province.

The meeting was addressed by the chairman of the Executive Committee of Tamatave Province, Charles Ravaojanahary, member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and political member of the Vanguard of Revolution, and Vice-President Pak Song-chol.

In his speech the chairman of the provincial Executive Committee said:

The Malagasy people and the Tamatave citizens sincerely wish good health and a long life to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

We congratulate the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on his election to the high post of president of the republic.

We express heartfelt thanks to His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader, for building the Tamatave Youth Hall as a gift.

The Malagasy people express full support to the just struggle of the Korean people for making the foreign troops withdraw from South Korea and achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, he stressed.

In his speech Charles Ravaojanahary said that the visit of the delegation to Madagascar not only strengthened and developed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries but also greatly encouraged the progressive people fighting against imperialism.

The Malagasy people who heighten vigilance against the "two Koreas" plot of the imperialists resolutely denounce the imperialists' "cross recognition argument" and "simultaneous UN membership" plot and fully support the just struggle of the Korean people for achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the country without the interference of outside forces.

Concluding his speech, he loudly shouted "Long live His Excellency President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people!" and "Long live President Didier Ratsiraka, the outstanding leader of the Malagasy people!"

After the meeting the delegation appreciated an art performance. It also visited the construction site of the youth hall. After inspecting the construction site, the delegation attended a welcome meeting of construction workers and citizens. The meeting opened with the chorus of "Song of General Kim Il-song."

The chairman of the executive committee of Tamatave Province arranged a banquet in honour of the party and government delegation of our country.

The attendants of the banquet toasted the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the good health and long life of President Didier Ratsiraka.

Kim Gift Presented

OW071151Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 7 Mar (KCNA)--The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent a gift to the Malagasy president. A ceremony for conveying the gift of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, was held in Antananarivo on 28 February, according to a report.

Put up there with due respect were a portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and a portrait of Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka.

Hanging there were the slogans reading "Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people!" and "Long live Didier Ratsiraka, the outstanding leader of the Malagasy people!" and "Long live friendship and cooperation between the Malagasy and Korean peoples!" The national flags of our country and Madagascar were flying.

Present at the ceremony were Malagasy Prime Minister Desire Rakotoarijaona, members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, ministers of the cabinet, the chief of General Staff, the general secretary of the Foreign Ministry and a large number of people.

Also present were the members of the party and government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice-president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the DPRK ambassador to Madagascar.

The national anthems of our country and Madagascar were played and a guard of honour was reviewed. Then head of the delegation Pak Song-chol made a speech.

The Malagasy prime minister spoke next.

Upon authorization the Malagasy prime minister received the gift of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the Malagasy president.

Departs 4 March

OW091013Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 9 Mar (KCNA)--Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice-president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who is the head of the party and government delegation of our country on a visit to Madagascar on 3 March paid a call on Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, according to a report.

In front of the presidential palace the band played the national anthems of our country and Madagascar and the head of the delegation reviewed a guard of honour. The head of the delegation courteously conveyed a personal letter of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the president.

Expressing deep thanks for the personal letter of the respected and beloved leader, the president asked the head of the delegation to convey thanks to him for building the youth hall in Madagascar, sending gifts and supporting and helping the Malagasy people.

The press at [redacted] expressed his satisfaction over the friendly and cooperative relations becoming very [redacted] between the two countries and stressed that these relations are the token of the friendship formed between the great leader and him. He strongly denounced the "two Koreas" plot of the splittists. Saying that Madagascar would struggle against it, he expressed her immovable stand to always remain firm on the side of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The delegation left Antananarivo on 4 March upon winding up its visit to the Democratic Republic of Madagascar. A farewell function took place at the airport for the party and government delegation of our country.

It was seen off at the airport by Malagasy Prime Minister Desire Rakotoarijaona, member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, ministers and personages concerned. On hand were the ambassador and staffers of the DPRK Embassy in Antananarivo.

On March 2 the delegation visited an agricultural cooperative in Tananarive Province.

Comrade Pak Song-chol, head of the party and government delegation of our country, arranged a banquet on 3 March. It was addressed by Vice President Pak Song-chol and the Malagasy prime minister. The attendants of the banquet drank toasts to the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to the good health and long life of President Didier Ratsiraka.

That day, the delegation inspected factories and the old royal palace in Antananarivo.

AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MADAGASCAR

SK080445Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0347 GMT 8 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--An agreement on air service between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar was signed in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, on 2 March according to a report.

It was signed on behalf of our side by So Chin-yong, DPRK ambassador to Madagascar, on behalf of the Malagasy side by Jean Bemananjara, minister of transport.

REPORTAGE ON CHONG CHUN-KI DELEGATION'S AFRICAN VISITS

Sao Tome- Principe

OW061143Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 6 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 6 Mar (KCNA)--A government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Chong Chun-ki stayed in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe between 22 and 26 February according to a report.

A banquet was arranged in its honour on 22 February. Present at the banquet were the ministers of foreign affairs, information and people's culture, health, and agriculture, and other personages concerned of Sao Tome and Principe. The attendants raised toasts to the good health and long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to the good health and long life of President Manuel Pinto da Costa.

While staying there, the government delegation of our country had talks with a government delegation of Sao Tome and Principe. Attending the talks on our side were the members of the delegation and on the opposite side were the foreign minister and other ministers and personages concerned. Views were exchanged there on further strengthening and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and matters of mutual concern. The talks passed in a friendly atmosphere.

During the visit, the head of the delegation called on the prime minister of the host country and had a friendly conversation with him.

President Meets Delegation

OW071101Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 7 Mar (KCNA)--Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, met recently the government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Chong Chun-ki, according to a report. The head of the delegation courteously conveyed cordial regards of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the president.

After inquiring after the health of the great leader, the president expressed deep thanks for his cordial regards. He asked the head of the delegation to convey his special and friendly regards to the great leader. He said that the relations between Korea and Sao Tome and Principe are truly friendly and fraternal.

He affirmed that the people of Sao Tome and Principe had opposed the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and actively supported the Korean people in their struggle to achieve the reunification of the country and would do so in the future, too. The conversation proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Activities in Angola

SK080510Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0343 GMT 8 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--Talks were held on 1 March between the delegation of the Workers Party of Korea headed by Comrade Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice-premier of the Administration Council on visit to Angola, and the delegation of the Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labour Party headed by Lopo do Nascimento, member of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the Central Committee of the Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labour Party who is alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the party, the director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the party, and the other personages concerned.

At the talks the two sides informed each other of the situation of their respective countries and exchanged views on problems of mutual concern and problems of further strengthening and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and two parties.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. The KWP delegation inspected factories and a museum on 28 February and 1 March. It arrived in Luanda on 26 February.

Delegation Returns

SKD80502Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0336 GMT 8 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--The party of government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Chong Chun-ki returned home on March 7 by plane after a visit to the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Cape Verde, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, the People's Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the People's Republic of Angola. It was met at the airport by Comrade Kye Ung-tae, and Kil Chae-kyong and other personages concerned. It left Luanda, the capital of Angola, on March 3 by plane.

It was seen off at the airport by the secretary in charge of external affairs of the Central Committee who is alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labour Party, the director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the party and other personages concerned.

KONG CHIN-TAE DELEGATION CALLS ON MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER

OW071155Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Pyongyang, 7 Mar (KCNA)--Comrade Kong Chin-tae, head of the government delegation of our country on a visit to Malaysia, called on Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Hussein bin Onn, on 2 March, according to a report. The head of the delegation courteously conveyed the kind regards of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the prime minister.

Expressing deep thanks for the kind regards of the great leader, the prime minister said: "Please convey my heartfelt greetings and warm thanks to the great leader President Kim Il-song." Referring to the question of the reunification of our country, he expressed the hope that Korea would be reunified into one in a peaceful way. He pointed out that the cooperation between the two countries should be strengthened for the unity and solidarity of the non-aligned movement.

The talk proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. Present there were the members of the government delegation of our country and the DPRK ambassador to Malaysia. Present on the Malaysian side were the minister of primary industries, a vice-minister of trade and industry and the general secretary of the Foreign Ministry.

The delegation arrived in Malaysia on 28 February.

Other Activities

SKD90353Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0347 GMT 9 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 9 Mar (KCNA)--Mahathir bin Mohamed, deputy prime minister of Malaysia, hosted a banquet on 28 February in honour of the government delegation of our country headed by Comrade Kong Chin-tae on a visit to Malaysia, according to a report. The banquet proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

On 1 March the government delegation of our country went round a housing construction district in Penang state.

It was entertained to a banquet by the chief minister of Penang that day.

On 2 March the head of the delegation paid a call on foreign minister of Malaysia. Views were exchanged between them on the development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and on matters of common concern. On the same day it visited a rubber research institute.

The DPRK ambassador to Malaysia arranged a banquet that day in connection with the visit of the delegation to Malaysia. Present at the banquet were Deputy Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed and the minister of housing and village development, a vice-minister of trade and industry and personages concerned. The attendants of the banquet toasted the good health and long life of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the good health of the king of Malaysia.

Talks were held between head of the delegation Comrade Kong Chin-tae and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir bin Mohamed on 4 March. The development of the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries was the topic of the talks, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

On the same day Abudul Ghafar bin Baba, general secretary of the National Front of Malaysia, hosted a banquet in honour of the DPRK Government delegation.

SPECIAL ENVOY YI CHANG-SON DEPARTS FOR GABON

SK100405Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0359 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 10 Mar (KCNA)--Yi Chang-son left Pyongyang yesterday by plane for a visit to Gabon as a special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He was seen off at the airport by personages concerned Kim Yong-chae, Chang Chol and Kil Chae-kyong and Ambassador Ignace Imounga Vanet and a staffer of the Gabonese Embassy in Pyongyang.

SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATION DEPARTS

SK080535Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0350 GMT 8 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--The Soviet trade union delegation headed by K.Y. Matskyavichus, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR, left Pyongyang on March 7 by plane. During its stay in Korea the delegation visited revolutionary sites, educational and cultural institutions, factories and cooperative farms in Pyongyang and local areas and Panmunjom.

After seeing the Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive factory, the head of the delegation wished the Korean people a new great upsurge in the struggle for carrying out the second seven-year plan under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea. He said that the Soviet party, government and people invariably and firmly support the Korean people in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

It was invited to attend a welcoming meeting of workers at the Pyongyang textile mills. Speeches were made at the meeting.

DELEGATION FROM SCIENTIFIC MEETING IN CUBA

SK080500Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0341 GMT 8 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--The government delegation of our country headed by Won Tong-ku returned home yesterday by plane after attending the sixth meeting of the Inter-Government Economic and Scientific-Technological Consultative Committee between Korea and Cuba which was held in Cuba. It was met at the airport by personages concerned Ho Sun, Chong Song-nam and Kim Yu-kun and Cuban ambassador to Korea Arduimidas Poveda Godinez.

KIM KWAN-SOP DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR HUNGARY

SK080455Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0339 GMT 8 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 8 Mar (KCNA)--A delegation of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries headed by Kim Kwan-sop left Pyongyang yesterday by plane for Hungary. It was seen off at the airport by personages concerned Kim Il-tae, Chang Chol and Chu-Chang-chun and Hungarian Ambassador to Korea Ferenc Szabo.

LIBYAN AVIATION DELEGATION VISITS; ACCORD SIGNED

SK040414Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0348 GMT 4 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 4 Mar (KCNA)--An agreement on air service between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was signed in Pyongyang on 3 March.

Present at the signing ceremony on our side were Kim Yo-ung and other personages concerned and on the Libyan side were the members of the government civil aviation delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya headed by Marui M. Abuzakuk, chief of the Civil Aviation Department of Libya.

The agreement was signed by Kim Yo-ung and Marui M. Abuzakuk.

Kye Ung-tae Receives Delegation

SK040416Y Pyongyang KCNA in English 0347 GMT 4 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Pyongyang, 4 Mar (KCNA)--Comrade Kye Ung-tae on 3 March met and had a friendly talk with the government civil aviation delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya headed by Marui M. Abuzakuk, chief of the Civil Aviation Department of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Present on the occasion were Kim Yo-ung and other personages concerned.

NDP DISSIDENTS SEEK OUSTER OF YI CHOL-SUNG

SK100827Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0822 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Seoul, 10 Mar (HAPTONG)--A dissident group within the opposition New Democratic Party has embarked on a drive to seek the ouster of party leader Yi Chol-sung from the top party post. The group, now campaigning for the restoration of the allegedly lost opposition mentality for the party, has been pressing for the convocation in March of a special national party convention to challenge Yi's leadership.

A spokesman for the group said today that if the proposed non-confidence motion against the party head was passed by the party convention, it would ask the party to pick someone else to replace Yi as the chairman of the party Supreme Council. The would-be successor could be chosen from among six Supreme Council members or by convention delegates, he said.

Even if the non-confidence against him was approved in the proposed party convention, the intra-party dissidents originally wanted to retain Yi as a caretaker leader until the next regular party convention. The shift in its campaign strategy was apparently aimed at securing support of Supreme Council members who have shown negative responses to the proposal for the convocation of the extraordinary party convention this month.

PRESIDENT URGES FISHING BOAT ACCIDENT PREVENTION

SK100135Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0115 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Chunchon, 10 Mar (HAPTONG)--President Pak Chong-hui, expressing his deep concern over frequent maritime disasters in the East Sea, Friday instructed the Kangwon provincial administration to work out measures to prevent further mishaps at sea. To help prevent the maritime accidents, President Pak told the Kangwon provincial government to carry out a program designed to provide fishermen with larger vessels with improved communication equipment and to check the outgoing ships with strengthened supervision.

The president made the instruction after he was briefed by Governor Kim Mu-yon on the major policy guidelines his province has set for the year. He came here on an inspection tour of the east coast province. He also told the province to see to it that families whose householders were lost at sea get adequate care in making their livelihood. Noting that Kangwon Province is suitable for livestock industry, he said that the province should encourage stock breeding on a massive scale. The provincial government was also told to study ways of luring into the province feedgrain factories.

PREMIER'S ADDRESS MARKS NATIONAL LABOR DAY

SK100249Y Seoul HAPTONG in English 0245 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK

[Text] Seoul, 10 Mar (HAPTONG)--Premier Choe Kyu-ha said today that the government would carry out vigorously its policy designed to eliminate low wages on a gradual basis and to improve working conditions for laborers.

In an address marking the nation's 33rd Labor Day, Premier Choe also asked labor and management to maintain a close relationship by solving their problems through frank dialogue.

Stressing entrepreneurs' social responsibility, he urged them to be forthcoming in returning part of their earnings to the public in the sense that the enterprise exists for the people and that it grows with them. For this, he went on, entrepreneurs should take the initiative in leading a frugal way of life and do their best in eliminating low wages as well in enhancing welfare programs for the employees.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO RESUME NORTH-SOUTH TALKS

SK050110Y Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Mar 78 p 4 SK

[Editorial: "Reopening of Dialogue"]

[Text] The continuing absence of contact between Seoul and Pyongyang is conducive only to aggravating the already inflammable tension persisting between the two sides. A most practical step toward the reduction of tension under the circumstances would be for the two parties to return to the conference table which they set up in July 1972 but which North Korea quit a year later.

The unconditional resumption of the talks proposed yesterday by Min Kwang-sik, the Seoul side's acting cochairman of the South-North Coordinating Committee, is the requisite of the Korean nation for its pursuit of a peaceful and prosperous life. Pyongyang had better look back on the past five years, the period without dialogue, to see what it has done to the interests of the Korean people. As Min remarked in his proposal to the North, the break has only pushed backward the aspiration of the people for a South-North rapport and eventual unification of the country.

If Pyongyang looks forward to a durable peace on the peninsula at all as its noisy propaganda claims, there is no workable alternative now to the proposed reopening of dialogue between the South and North in paving the way for that goal. If North Korea continues to strive for a violent end to the Korean division, the result will be nothing but suicidal.

The severe economic strain of the North speaks for much of the truth and points to the direction Pyongyang would do well to follow. The current North Korean concentration on its seven-year economic plan, which began this year, will hardly bring the program to the desired end unless the economic efforts are geared entirely to peaceful targets. The unceasing emphasis on military preparations for unifying Korea under communist terms can hardly relieve the North Korean economy from its present straits.

It will be just reckless for North Korea to maintain its violent design on the South at the expense of decent living for the people. More and more nations on the globe are lifting ideological borders to seek benefits common to them. It indeed is behind the tide of the times for North Korea to keep its doors shut to the South, let alone the outside world, while crying for "peaceful unification."

A peaceful unification is impossible as long as the present mutual distrust and misunderstanding prevail between the South and North. To remove these two major obstacles, one side should show and prove its peaceful intent to the other over a period of time. What can be achieved to that end unless the two sides open their societies to each other? For this reason, acting Cochairman Min's call for economic, social and cultural exchanges between the two parts is indispensable.

The divided halves would be able to complement each other materially through such exchanges. Resources, technology and manpower of the South and North will make the life of the Korean people much better if they are brought to work in harmony. The thought of such a possibility marks a good start to our moving in the direction of peaceful unification, no matter how far it is ahead.

To make such a journey to peace and unification the two sides should sit together and talk, first of all. They should return without conditions to the table at which they met five years ago. And to arrange for their return, the hot-line telephone communication between Seoul and Pyongyang must be resumed as soon as possible.

BRIEFS

ROK FOREIGN AID--Seoul, 10 Mar--The Korean Government has earmarked 1,360,000 dollars for foreign aid and 63 million dollars for foreign investment in this year. The projected foreign aid fund of 1,360,000 dollars will be spent primarily to reinforce economic ties with backward nations in Africa and the Middle East and the foreign investment fund for cultivation of markets for Korean products in developing countries. The scale of foreign aid and investment for this year was decided during Thursday's meeting of the overseas economic and technological cooperation committee chaired by economic planning minister Nam Tok-u. The meeting also decided to invite 30 technical trainees from Africa and the Middle East this year for training in Korea's major industrial fields as part of a government plan to promote economic cooperation with the regions through technology exchange. [Excerpt] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0110 GMT 10 Mar 78 SK]

RETURN OF STOWAWAYS--Pusan 9 Mar--A total of 136 South Korean stowaways expelled from Japan arrived here today aboard the 580-ton Japanese freight-passenger ship Kaide-maru. The stowaways, most of them from the island province of Cheju, had been held in the Omura detention camp after being caught by Japanese police for illegal entry into that country between January 1975 and early this year. Pusan police will place under arrest the deportees except minors and aged people for breaking the smuggling control law. [Text] [Seoul, HAPTONG in English 0105 GMT 9 Mar 78 SK]

FISHING SURVEY--Seoul, 9 Mar--The Office of Fisheries will send a fishery survey ship to the fishing grounds off Australia on May 1, office sources said today. The 1,100-ton Odaesan-ho will conduct an extensive survey on the distribution of bottom fish, such as sea beams, shrimps and crabs, in the waters off Australia, for about 155 days until Oct. 2, the sources said. The decision was made to explore new fishing grounds off the oceanic country, the sources said. The Australian sea is reportedly teeming with bottom fish including sea beams, codfish and cuttlefish, the sources added. [Text] [Seoul HAPTONG in English 0104 GMT 9 Mar 78 SK]

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SECOND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETING

1978 Appropriations Bill

BK071628Y Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Planning and Finance Minister U Tun Tin, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, today discussed at the final session of the first meeting of the Second People's Assembly the questions raised and the suggestions made by the assemblymen while discussing the 1978 appropriations bill.

U Tun Tin noted that the assemblymen, while discussing the income from revenues, dealt with three points. The first point is the rise in income from revenues in 1978-79 by 199.5 million kyats. Although the estimate in 1977-78 was 2.9129 billion kyats, real income was 3.1124 billion kyats. The second point is the guideline of the third party congress that revenue must equal 12.5 percent of the gross domestic product, and the third point is that revenue collected in 1977-78 equalled 9.6 percent of the gross domestic product and that revenue equalling only 9.4 percent of the gross domestic product is expected in 1978-79.

In discussing revenues, it will be necessary to go back to fiscal years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77 of the First People's Assembly term. In 1974-75 the People's Assembly estimated receipts of 1.27 billion kyats, but actual receipts were 1.47 billion kyats, surpassing the target by 200 million kyats. The estimate in 1975-76 was 1.68 billion kyats while actual receipts were 1.86 billion kyats, 180 million kyats higher than the estimate. Again in 1976-77 the target was 1.86 billion kyats, but actual receipts were 2.41 billion kyats, surpassing the target by 550 million kyats. The target for 1977-78 is 2.87 billion kyats, but according to a revised estimate, receipts are expected to be 2.91 billion kyats. Hence actual receipts are expected to surpass the target by 40 million kyats. These results during the 4-year term of the First People's Assembly show that receipts from revenues have risen from 1.27 billion kyats to 3.21 billion kyats [as heard] --a rise of nearly 2 billion kyats.

The revenues come from the state, cooperatives and private sectors. In 1976-77, (98.80) percent came from the state sector, (2.77) percent from the cooperatives sector and (8.43) from the private sector. Revenues collected directly from the private sector come as income taxes and have risen from about 20 million kyats to about 150 million kyats. This is the result of close supervision by party and regional organs of power as well as the cooperation of taxpayers. Strict collection of revenues will continue, and it is expected to make up 10.5 percent of the gross domestic product by the final year of the third 4-year plan. Collection of revenues will be done during the period with the help of the people's councils concerned and under the guidance of the leading party.

Expenses in the revised 1977-78 budget estimate have decreased because of lower current accounts of the Agriculture Mechanization Department and lower capital accounts of the Irrigation Department and the Airways Directorate. The current account of the Agriculture Mechanization Department has decreased because of a failure to procure needed tractors and waterpumps. The delay of equipment and goods ordered from abroad as well as a delay of equipment and goods purchased with foreign loans and assistance is also responsible for the decrease in capital accounts of the Irrigation Department and the Airways Directorate. But it is not because of high social welfare expenses, such as construction of schools and bridges, as stated by the assemblymen in their discussions.

The terms "debts" and "investment accounts for organizations" were used in the 1978-79 budget estimate to make it easier for assemblymen and citizens to understand as well as to make the accounts more specific and accurate. Simpler terms will be used in drafting future budget estimates, as called for by the assemblymen.

The Council of Ministers is also trying to increase exports of rice, rice products and timber and other prospective goods. It is also seeking new foreign markets for rice, timber, fish and shrimp. If these efforts are successful, Burma will be able to earn more foreign exchange and repay and reduce foreign debts gradually. Burma, he added, is paying its foreign debts regularly. The state enterprises are allowed to spend more than the expenses mentioned in the budget estimate, provided that they can earn more by operating on a commercial basis, U Tun Tin added.

Details on Third 4-Year Plan

BK100410Y Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 4 Mar 78 pp 1, 4 BK

[Excerpts] U Tun Tin, minister for planning and finance, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, yesterday explained to the Second Pyithu Hluttaw matters relating to the third 4-year plan.

The minister for planning and finance said that he was submitting the draft objectives of the third 4-year plan (1978-79 to 1981-82), the bill on objectives of the first year (1978-79) of the third 4-year plan, and the report to the Pyithu Hluttaw on financial, economic and social conditions of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma for 1978-79, for the Pyithu Hluttaw members to study, discuss and appraise and adopt, promulgate and place them on record as required.

The minister said that the third 4-year plan objectives will be explained in five parts: the situation in the implementation of the second 4-year plan; how the third 4-year plan was drawn up at various levels and the major objectives of the plan; nationwide targets and sector wise targets of the third 4-year plan; objectives of the first year (1978-79) of the third 4-year plan, and the successful implementation of the third 4-year plan, and the successful implementation of the third 4-year plan.

He continued that the Burma Socialist Program Party, after laying down a 20-year long term plan is drawing up and implementing short-term plans for achieving the major objectives of the 20-year long term plan. The second 4-year plan, a short-term plan, had been drawn up and implemented, and the third 4-year plan, has been drawn up for implementation, he pointed out. The minister first explained the achievement made in the implementation of the second 4-year plan.

Following the brief report of plan situations implemented during the period of the second four year plan, part (2), which is the drawing up of the third four year plan and the plan's objectives will be, explained.

He went on to say that the main objectives of the third 4-year plan will be explained. The main objectives of the third 4-year plan is to make efforts to be back on the course of the 20-year long-term plan in the year of 1981-82, the final year of the plan. The second objective is to make efforts to raise the gross domestic product by 6.6 percent per year. The third objective is to make efforts for the regular increase of productive force during the plan period.

The fourth objective is to raise exports. The fifth objective is to make efforts for investing an average of K4140 million in the state sector per year as well as to raise the investments in the cooperative and private sectors according to the guidance of the party. The sixth objective is to make arrangements according to the guidance of party in order to make full use of people's strength. Arrangements have been made to lay down effective means for the successful implementation of the plans during the year of the plan.

Part 3 of the report contained the targets set in the third 4-year plan for the whole country. As reported earlier, if the value of the gross domestic product could be increased by 6.6 percent, the average total value of domestic consumption would increase by 5.8 percent per annum, total investment by 11.2 percent and total exports by 10.8 percent respectively.

The target for total annual import is planned to increase by 12.7 percent. If these targets were achieved, the economic situation of each individual would improve further.

The rate of improvement expected for each individual for the year 1977-78 compared with the base year would average 4.4 percent per capita production; per capita income 4.6 percent and that of per capita consumption 3.7 percent respectively. The average increase in the value of per capita production of the individual was estimated to increase by 4.1 percent. To achieve this, it was imperative that the targets set for each sector should be fully implemented.

The targets set for increase in production in the major production in the major production sectors are 5.8 percent in the agricultural sector, 5.0 percent in meat and fish sector, 5.8 percent in the forests sector, 12.2 percent in the mines sector, and 12.2 percent in the industrial sector respectively.

Explaining the changes in Burma's economic structure and in the ownership sector, the report stated that if the targets were successfully implemented, the economic structure that could result in 1981-82--the last year of the 4-year plan--would be that the value of production of goods would be 52.7 percent, that of services 23.7 percent and that of trade 23.6 percent respectively.

In the final year of the plan, the state sector would form 38.7 percent, cooperatives 4.9 percent and the private sector 56.4 percent respectively.

Part 4 of the report dealt with targets set for 1978-79--the first year of the third 4-year plan.

In implementing the annual plans, a plan law would have to be promulgated. For the year 1978-79 the target for increasing the Gross National Product was set at 5.9 percent. The percentage increases in the value of Gross National Product in the major sectors of the country's economy included 5.0 percent in the agriculture sector, 4.7 percent in the meat and fish sector, 4.1 percent in the forests sector, 13.4 percent in the mines sector and 13.4 percent in the industrial sector. The per capita production of an individual for the year was set at 4.7 percent, his per capita income at 5.9 percent and per capita consumption at 3.3 percent, while the per capita production of each worker was set at 3.5 percent.

Included in the targets set for the third 4-year plan were those of 1978-79--the first year of the third 4-year plan. For these to be approved and promulgated by the current Pyithu Hluttaw, a separate bill for production and services targets for 1978 economic plan has been submitted.

U Tun Tin next explained chapter 5 which deals with matters relating to the successful implementation of the third 4-year plan. He said that in order to implement the third 4-year plan successfully, the experiences and knowledge gained from implementing the first and second 4-year plans were taken and after reducing the weak points as far as possible, the plan was drawn after holding discussions on various matters step by step. The main objective of the third 4-year plan is to get back on the path of the 20-year long term plan. This is in line with the guidance laid down by the third party congress. In order to get back on the path of the 20-year long term plan, it is necessary to follow strictly according to the main objectives of the long term plan in implementing the third 4-year plan. The main objectives of the long term plan are, to raise the living standard of all the nationalities; to raise the entire national economy proportionately by means of using the planning system; to carry out duties of the socialist plans to the full extent so that socialist production relations will become renown [as published]. It is specially important to utilise every possible means of productive forces in the country as the first year 1978-79 of the third 4-year plan is very vital.

During this period 1978-79 it is very important to step up exports, to extend investment projects and to give priority to the implementation of agriculture, fish and meat production sectors. It is also necessary to systematically implement the economic plans sector by sector and according to regions. Then again, in implementing the third 4-year plan, the guidance of the Burma Socialist Program Party must be taken. On one hand the management committees should carry out the work according to rules and regulations of public management methods and on the other hand the working people, peasants and the various class and mass organisations should use the organisational means. They should have a patriotic mentality and organise all the people's work forces into a single body and implement plans in the form of national movement in such a way that all the targets are fully realised. If all work in unity and strive hard in implementing the third 4-year plan, the main objective which is to get back on the path of the 20-year long term plan will be realised.

U Tun Tin in conclusion requested the Pyithu Hluttaw to approve the draft objectives of the third 4-year plan (1978-79 to 1981-82) of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, to promulgate the bill for production and services objectives of 1978 the first year (1978-79) of the third 4-year plan, and to put on record the report on financial, economic and social conditions of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma for 1978-79 submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Report on Industrial Production

BK081624Y Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Mar 78 HK

[Text] Although it was planned to raise the net production value of the industrial sector for 1977-78--the final year of second 4-year plan--by 6.4 percent, it has risen, according to provisional figures, by about 7.6 percent. This was stated in chapter 5 of the report on the 1978-79 financial, economic and social situation of Burma, dealing with the industrial sector, submitted to the People's Assembly.

It attributes the rise in the industrial sector in 1977-78 to a remarkable improvement in the production of equipment, which was low in 1976-77, as well as to the comparative improvement of the production capability of other industries over previous years. Regarding the actual achievements of the yearly targets during the second 4-year plan period, 81 percent of the target was fulfilled in 1974-75, 91.4 percent in 1975-76, 94.2 percent in 1976-77 and 98.7 percent in 1977-78, the final year of the 4-year plan period.

The main objectives of the industrial sector under the second 4-year plan were to give priority to the establishment of industries that will use local raw materials and produce import-substitute goods essential to the country, to choose and build industries which

will minimize use of imported raw materials, to expand and establish industries that will help the agricultural sector, to start industries that will manufacture goods for export, to lay a groundwork upon which to establish heavy industries, and to raise the production value of the entire industrial sector by an average of 6.5 percent every year during the economic plan period.

By the end of the second 4-year plan, there were altogether 37,094 factories and workshops--1,506 in the state sector, 937 in the cooperative sector, 14 in the government-supervised private sector and 34,637 in the private sector. The number of workers at factories and workshops has also risen as a result of the expansion of industries. There were only a little over 829,000 workers before the implementation of the second 4-year plan, but the number rose to over 928,000 by the end of the plan period.

Of the four industries which were set up prior to the 4-year plan period, three were completed on schedule. They are the Kyangin cement plant, the Tharrawaddy ceramic factory and the Pyu bran oil mill capable of producing 3 tons of bran oil (?daily). They will produce 240,000 tons of cement, 1,100 tons of assorted ceramicware, 400 tons of (?special) ceramic products, 290 tons of bran oil, 77 tons of crude industrial oil, and 1,760 bran cakes yearly.

Construction of eighteen factories and workshops began at the start of the second 4-year plan and were scheduled for completion within that period. So far two factories have begun production, but construction on them is still continuing. The expanded tile factory will produce 7,400 cubic meters and the machinery and parts factory 920 assorted units of machinery and 1,000 tons of spare parts yearly.

A total of 22 factories were scheduled for construction and completion during the second 4-year plan. Five of them were completed by the end of the plan. As they are producing import-substitute goods, the country is now saving 14.7 million kyats of foreign exchange yearly.

Report on Construction Sector

BK081102Y Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0430 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The report on the 1978-79 financial, economic and social situation in Burma, which was presented to the Second People's Assembly, provided details of the construction sector.

The report says: The yearly average growth rate of the net output value of the construction sector, when computed on the basis of the basic year [fiscal 1973-74] of the second 4-year economic plan adopted at the first meeting of the First People's Assembly, was 1 percent. However, when computations are based on the actual figures of the fiscal 1973-74 and on the net output value based on the provisional figures for 1977-78, the yearly average growth rate is 6.3 percent.

But when the net output value, according to provisional figures for 1977-78, are compared on the basis of the 1973-74 basic economic plan year, the yearly average growth is 3.9 percent.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO PRC ANNOUNCED

BK090404Y Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0130 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday that the president of Burma has appointed U Tha Tun Burma's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China.

REPORT ON 7 MARCH CLASH WITH VIETNAMESE IN RATANAKIRI

BK100004Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2348 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] After being shamefully routed and driven from Cambodian territory by our heroic revolutionary army, the expansionist, annexationist Vietnamese enemy has continued acts of encroachment and provocation along the frontier.

On 7 March a Vietnamese battalion encroached upon our territory at a point south of O Tang and Route 19. They had hardly set foot on our land before being attacked by our army. Five troops were killed on the spot and many others wounded. The survivors fled across the border, running into our landmines and bamboo spikes. As a result, more were killed or wounded.

This clearly shows that the Vietnamese are not abandoning their plans to annex Cambodian territory and force Cambodia into joining a Vietnamese-dominated Indochinese federation. This reveals the execrable, tricky nature of the Vietnamese, who have been trying to hide behind the label of peaceful negotiations or sweet words such as "special friendship" and "special solidarity".

PEASANTS IN KIRIVONG, TAKEO REBUILD DESTROYED VILLAGES

BK091616Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK

[Summary] Kirivong is one of the border areas affected by recent Vietnamese aggression. In contrast to the other four districts of Takeo's southwestern region, Kirivong is a hilly area; its vast ricefield extends to the Vietnamese border. Recent Vietnamese aggression and atrocities have inflamed the Cambodian and Kirivong people's national and class hatred against the expansionist, annexationist Vietnamese aggressors. Every cooperative peasant in Kirivong has pledged to turn his indignation into a source of strength in the struggle to rebuild and give the district a new look.

"Under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the KCP, despite the fact that the Vietnamese were defeated and driven out of the area, cooperative peasants in Kirivong remain fully aware of the cunning nature and ambitious strategy of the Vietnamese aggressors who have always wanted to incorporate Cambodia into a Vietnamese-dominated Indochinese federation. The people of Kirivong continue to uphold their revolutionary vigilance.

"The Vietnamese still continue their aggressive and provocative activities against Cambodia, but our fraternal people remain calm and stand ready for combat and sacrifice in order to fight the Vietnamese and throw them out whenever they dare to encroach against our territory. In addition, our cooperative peasants have doubled their efforts to rebuild villages set ablaze and destroyed by the Vietnamese.

"The Kirivong people's vigorous struggling spirit, sacrifice and lofty revolutionary heroism, rising from the flames of their hatred for the Vietnamese enemy, have brought a new look to their area."

Cooperative villages, homes and communal dining halls and infirmaries are being rebuilt. Some of the peasants are striving to rebuild their workshops, develop new irrigation systems and grow a dry season rice crop and other secondary crops. This reconstruction drive is now proceeding vigorously day and night.

U.S. MINERS' STRIKE AGAINST 'PERSECUTION' NOTED

BK100535Y Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] No longer able to endure the bloodsucking and persecution savagely inflicted on them by the U.S. capitalist class, miners have waged successive struggles to demand the right to live--mankind's most fundamental right.

On 6 December 1977, 180,000 miners began a nationwide strike which brought 3,000 U.S. coal mines to a standstill. Since the monopolistic U.S. capitalists refuse to comply with the miners' demands, the strike has been going on for more than 3 months. The miners have fought courageously against all attempts at intimidation, and continue to urge the capitalists to comply with their demands.

The strike has seriously affected the monopolistic U.S. capitalist system. Factories and powerplants in many areas of the United States are experiencing an acute shortage of coal while 3 million workers have been laid off. The already serious and hopeless energy crisis in the United States has worsened.

In 1977 the United States imported nearly \$45 billion worth of petroleum, more than \$10 billion over the previous year. In 1978 it will have to spend more on petroleum imports causing the dollar to further depreciate.

The current miners' strike has shaken the top U.S. administration. President Carter has come out personally to suppress it, declaring a state of emergency and imposing a decree forcing the miners back to work. However, the U.S. miners have not been intimidated by these threats and are carrying on their struggle for the right to live.

AIR CRASH, PRESENCE OF MIG FIGHTERS REPORTED

BK101336Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Bangkok, 10 Mar (AFP)--An Air Laos plane crashed near Vientiane on Wednesday with 27 people on board. There were two survivors, it was learnt yesterday at the frontier post of Nong Khai, 27 kilometres (17 miles) from the Lao capital. Radio messages received by the Vientiane airport control tower showed the pilot had lost his way on a flight from Attapeu in southern Laos. The plane flew in circles until it ran out of fuel and then crash-landed near Vientiane, informed sources said.

This is the fourth Lao plane to be lost since October. The three others were MIG-21 fighters supplied to the Lao Air Force last September. Two of the MIGs were shot down in October and November over the Xieng Khouang region by nationalist Mong rebels opposed to the government since 1975, informed sources said. The third MIG crashed in February not far from the Nam Ngum dam near Vientiane, killing its Lao pilot and the chief of a Soviet team of flight instructors who are training Lao pilots.

A total of 21 Soviet-built MIG-21's were delivered to the former American base at Danang in central Vietnam last August. They were assembled and then flown to Laos by Soviet instructors. There are about 100 Soviet pilots and technicians engaged in training Lao pilots. A radar network and navigational aids have been installed by the Soviet Union at 12 landing strips throughout the country, informed sources said.

OPENING ESCAP CONFERENCE IN BANGKOK REPORTED

BK100634Y Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1400 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] According to foreign reports, on 7 March ESCAP opened its 34th session in Bangkok. The session will study cooperation in all fields among developing countries. The commission comprises representatives of more than 30 Asian and Pacific countries. An LPDR delegation led by Vice Foreign Minister Noupnan Sitphasai attended the session. Other delegations include those of the United States, Great Britain, the Netherlands and France.

The reports add that the present commission called on all member countries to draft detailed economic plans from now until late 1980, so that they can be studied and an economic coordination plan worked out.

VIENTIANE CITY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM YOKOHAMA VISIT

BK091154Y Vientiane KPL in English 1016 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Vientiane, 9 Mar (KPL)--The Vientiane city delegation led by Mayor Phao Phimphachan returned to Vientiane after its friendly visit to Yokohama city, Japan. The delegation was welcomed at Wattai Airport by administrative personnel, representatives of many branches and services in the city and the Japanese ambassador to Laos.

During its stay in Japan, the delegation also visited Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe and Tokyo cities, where it was warmly welcomed by Japanese authorities and other people.

BURIRAM VILLAGERS ABDUCTED TO CAMBODIA BY 'SIEM ORGANIZATION'

BK100214Y Bangkok POST in English 10 Mar 78 p 3 BK

[Text] Six Thai communist guerrillas kidnapped 25 villagers from an eastern border hamlet and headed for Cambodia Wednesday, the National News Agency said. The agency quoted a police report as saying that the guerrillas, belonging to the Thai communist movement "Siem Organisation" with sanctuaries inside Cambodia, herded the villagers of Ban Non Din Daeng in Buriram Province while they were out working in tapioca fields.

One of the abducted villagers later escaped and reported that the guerrillas told them they were being taken to an undisclosed liberated area. Thai guerrillas and Cambodian soldiers kidnapped over 100 Thais from a village in Chanthaburi last Sunday.

UPPADIT ON BORDER KIDNAPPINGS, ENVOY TO SRV

BK091247Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Press interview with Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun--date not given]

[Excerpt] Asked by newsmen about diplomatic efforts to resolve the repeated incidents of Thai citizens being herded by Cambodians into Cambodian territory, Foreign Minister Uppadit said that the Foreign Ministry has continuously tried to use diplomatic means to solve border problems. He said that both Thailand and Cambodia must effectively prevent third party activities and that communist terrorists have been cooperating with the so-called Siem organization hiding inside Cambodia. He reiterated that the government has not neglected the safety of the people living along the Cambodian border, particularly those abducted into Cambodia, but rather is trying to solve the problem.

Asked what instructions he had given to Thai officials departing for Hanoi later this week, Foreign Minister Uppadit pointed out that the Thai group will be headed by Sanan Plangprayun, who will be charge d'affaires and acting ambassador at the Thai Embassy in Hanoi. His mission will be to foster good will and set up our embassy in Hanoi. He said that according to his information the Vietnamese government has been helping to locate a site for the embassy, indicating compliance with earlier pledges and good cooperation with Thailand. He said that the Thai ambassador to Vietnam is still to be selected.

UPPADIT MEETS WITH LAOS' NOUPHAN SITPHASAI 9 MARCH

BK100232Y Bangkok POST in English 10 Mar 78 p 3 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun and Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Noupnan Sitphasai yesterday agreed that both their governments will issue strict orders to their border officials to avoid the use of firearms and prevent incidents which could lead to misunderstanding. They held discussions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dr Uppadit said that both also agreed to exchange trade missions soon. "The Mekong is not considered a barrier but a link for cooperation and understanding," he added.

Mr Mouphan said that there should be full implementation of the 1976 Thai-Lao friendship agreement. He said that with sincerity from both sides there will be better relations. He asked the Thai government to ensure that its orders to its border officials are strictly carried out. Dr Uppadit asked Mr Noupahan to convey his best wishes to Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut.

Meanwhile, in Nong Khai, Governor Chamnam Photchana yesterday sent a note explaining the fact, about the shooting incident between Thai Mekong Patrol units and Laotian troops at Si Chiangmai district on March 6 to the Thai Ambassador to Laos, Set Herabat. The note said that the Thai Mekong Patrol unit had to fire back at the Lao side after some bullets fired by the Lao troops in pursuing two Lao escapees trying to cross the Mekong River to Thailand completely destroyed six houses in the district.

The Lao aide memoire handed over to director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department. Mr Owat Suthiwatnaruphut, claimed that the Thai Mekong Patrol unit fired across the river on March 6, killing a nurse and causing damage to property on the Lao bank, after Pathet Lao troopers fired two warning shots into the air when two Lao tried to flee across the river.

Trade Talks To Begin

BK100230Y Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 10 Mar 78 p 1 BK

[Text] Thai and Lao trade missions are expected to meet soon to hold talks on the exchange of trade between the two countries, Foreign Minister Uppadit Pachariyangkun said yesterday.

Mr Uppadit said after a 1-hour discussion with Lao Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Noupahan Sitphasai, who paid a courtesy call at the Foreign Ministry, that the trade cooperation will be one of the attempts to improve relations between Thailand and neighbouring Laos as well as to make the Mekong River a zone of "friendship and peace."

Both sides, he added, agreed to avoid conflicts along the border and "we do not think the disputes in the past were serious enough to obstruct the relations between the two countries." Mr Uppadit also promised to raise the issue with Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan so as to keep a closer watch on the operation along the Thai-Lao frontier to "prevent further misunderstanding."

Mr Noupahan told reporters, in the presence of Mr Uppadit, that the relationship between the two countries was being improved but "there have been some contradictions to the Thai-Lao joint statement." He did not mention what they were. "The Lao Government," he indicated, "will strictly follow the 1976 joint communique particularly on the matter concerning the Mekong River of which Laos wants it to be a joint river for both countries." He added: "I request that the Thai government closely supervise its officials, including the stipulation of more severe punishment on those violating the government's policy, affecting the relationship of the two countries."

NAKHON PHANOM GOVERNOR DISCUSSES REFUGEES, LAO-THAI RELATIONS

BK091505Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Nakhon Phanom Province Governor Somphon Klinphongsai's 8 March press interview--recorded]

[Text] The province is strictly following the policy of the Interior Ministry on illegal entry and has tried to push back those who enter the country illegally.

We have managed to return 80 percent, a figure higher than other border provinces. We reject all who flee to our country for economic reasons. We take only those who return would mean death and those who might possibly be accepted by third countries. We always have UN officials interrogate them.

We are sticking to the policy of expelling them. You may ask me whether these people are killed when they are sent back. I don't know. When we return them we have officials stand guard to watch until they are actually back in their country. No doubt they can sneak back again into our country. Late last month we expelled 26 Chinese and Vietnamese who had arrived here by boat. I do not know how well our officials stood guard, because it seems that after a while the group showed up in the refugee center in Ubon Ratchathani Province. I sent a Mekong River operations unit to bring them to Nakhon Phanom. The refugees assured us that they have relatives in the United States and France. I therefore gave them a 30 day deadline to stay temporarily before leaving for a third country--otherwise they will be shipped back to Laos. They agreed to that condition.

We have a small problem with contraband. We realize that the other side greatly needs salt, preserved fish, corrugated iron, detergents and medicine of all kinds. We can do nothing for them.

I reached an agreement with the vice chairman of the Savannakhet Provincial Administration, Mr (Bounphan Vilachit), when we met on 11 January to discuss the improvement of Mekong navigation. I took that opportunity to personally ask him whether he would receive the refugees we don't want. He agreed to take them back. We both exchanged signed documents on this matter in Lao and Thai with a copy forwarded to the Foreign Ministry. I also proposed a monthly meeting to discuss trivial mutual problems. Important problems will have to wait for a policy by the government, of course, but this is aimed at solving small conflicts. He agreed and accepted my proposal in principle.

My latest contact was when I invited him to visit our officials working on navigation signs at Kaeng Krabao, where the deep channel is close to the Thai bank. Last November a Lao boat sank there and we gave them the best help we could. We helped them rescue sunken goods and repair the ship--this resulted in better friendship. I want the chairman of the Savannakhet Provincial Administration to visit Kaeng Krabao. We are now waiting for his reply.

Finally, on 28 February a big buffalo swam across the river to the governor's house. I immediately radioed the Mukdahan district chief, asking him to contact the vice chairman of the Savannakhet Provincial Administration and alert the chairman of Khammouane Province, which is opposite Nakhon Phanom, telling him we wanted to return the buffalo to Laos because we realized that Laos, which was drought-stricken needed that buffalo for work. We guaranteed safety to Lao officials to come to take back that buffalo. We told them to set the date. We are now waiting for their reply.

THAI-MALAYSIAN EXERCISE TO BEGIN IN SONGKHLA 10 MARCH

BK100245Y Bangkok POST in English 10 Mar 78 p 3 BK

[Excerpt] Thai and Malaysian troops will launch a joint military exercise on Thai territory today to test agreed operational procedures to be used later. Defence Minister Gen Lek will preside over the opening ceremony for the joint exercise in Songkhla Province.

The 6-day war games by 500 combined troops would test communications, logistics and command and test understanding between the two forces in their drive against the communist guerrillas.

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE EXPLAINS TARIFF HIKES, BAHT POLICY

BK091217Y Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Statement of the Prime Minister's office issued on 8 March]

[Text] In connection with decrees raising import duties on 141 items, raising tariffs on high octane and regular gasoline, liquors, beer and sodawater and revising the act on the currency system, the government wishes to submit an explanation.

Over the past year the volume of imported goods has increased more than 30 percent. The increase in exports still cannot make up for expenditures on imports, resulting in a tremendous trade and balance of payments deficit. This has also affected the stability of the baht. After careful consideration the government has come to the conclusion that this record deficit must be urgently and stringently corrected. Otherwise, the situation will deteriorate further and could seriously affect the national economy and living standard. Although the problem dates back years, it is felt that there is no time to wait for installation of a new government to tackle the problem--it would then be too late, and the repercussions might be too serious for the country to bear.

The government has made a careful study of the matter and come to the conclusion that there is an urgent need to implement a new tariff system in addition to the import ban on 18 items and the curb on credit for installment buying announced earlier. The government feels the tax revision will be effective in considerably reducing the trade and balance of payment deficit. It will also prompt the people to be more economical and will enable the government to earn more money for national development.

Concerning the increase in import duties on another 141 items, the government points out that only luxury goods have been subject to tax revision. Furthermore, sufficient quantities of these goods are produced locally. Necessities such as machinery and raw materials are not subject to the new tariff. The government believes that the revision of import taxes will save the country several billion baht in trade deficits.

Concerning the revision of excise duties, only four categories of goods are subject: beer, a special category of liquors, sodawater and gasoline. The excise tax on gasoline is increased by 73 satang per liter [100 satang equal one baht] both for high octane and regular gasoline. The increased tax on gasoline will eventually affect certain sectors, but only to a limited extent, since it does not include diesel or bunker oil. At present Thailand imports over 20 billion baht in oil per year, the biggest item constituting over 20 percent of total imports. The increased tax on gasoline is aimed at curbing oil consumption and reducing foreign exchange spent on oil imports.

In addition to tax revision aimed at reducing the trade and balance of payments deficit and stabilizing the baht, the government has also revised the monetary act to improve the baht parity system. This is further intended to provide stability for the baht.

Thailand has tied the baht to gold and thus automatically to the U.S. dollar, since the official price of gold is based on the U.S. dollar [as heard]. At present, gold is playing a diminishing role as a monetary standard, and most members of the International Monetary Fund have abandoned the gold standard. Tying the baht to the dollar causes fluctuation following the dollar. This situation is not favorable to the economy of Thailand.

Pegging the baht to gold and the U.S. dollar in the past was favorable to the economy and did not affect the stability of the baht since the dollar was stable and did not fluctuate as much as today. Due to current changes the government considers it necessary to revise the baht parity system. The baht will be tied to several foreign currencies important to the Thai economy, including the U.S. dollar--but it will not be based solely on gold and the dollar as in the past. The new system will not affect trading in foreign currency, since stability will still be maintained through the Bank of Thailand's exchange equalization fund, which is always ready to buy and sell unlimited dollars at commercial banks.

The government emphasizes that it has carefully assessed its options to only curb consumption of luxury goods without repercussions for investment and production. The measures announced are aimed at resolving trade and payment deficits as well as providing stability for the baht--necessary for the economy, investment and development of the country. All this is for the benefit of the country and the people on the whole.

The Prime Minister's Office, 8 March 1978

POST WANTS NONINTERFERENCE FROM BIG POWERS IN ASEAN

BK100210Y Bangkok POST in English 10 Mar 78 p 6 BK

[Editorial: "Leave ASEAN Alone"]

[Text] The Soviet Union is sending its top expert on Southeast Asian affairs to visit us Saturday through Monday. We should welcome Mr Nikolay U. Firyubin, deputy foreign minister, because an exchange of views with our leaders and policy-makers will lead to better understanding of each country's objectives. It is significant that this man from Moscow who has served more than 20 years in the Soviet Foreign Ministry is visiting us at this particular time. This visit will be the first he is making to Thailand in 6-7 years.

Mr Firyubin's visit has been made possible by the policy of friendliness with all countries, irrespective of political, economic or social systems, that has been declared by the present government, and is being personally implemented by Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan. Our prime minister believes that a positive role can be played by Soviet Russia as well as the United States and China in bringing peace and progress to this region.

However, this does not mean that any of these powers will be allowed to interfere in regional affairs or the domestic affairs of the countries in Southeast Asia. Most of all, Thailand along with its partners in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, wishes fervently to set this area up as a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality.

Although Moscow has been critical of ASEAN and continues to be suspicious of its motives, it must surely support the aspirations of the member governments if it is truly interested in peace and progress in this part of the world. For this idea of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality to succeed, it is essential for Soviet Russia as well as the United States and China to agree on a "hands-off" policy and to make neutrality a reality for Southeast Asia. Both the United States and China have openly expressed support for the ASEAN aim.

Even the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which once was doubtful about ASEAN has come out publicly in favour of a "zone of peace, independence and neutrality." Since the Vietnamese have been their close partners, the Russians should now be able to give their blessing to the implementation of this desirable goal.

It is to be hoped that after meeting with Prime Minister Kriangsak and other leaders of Southeast Asia, the Soviet deputy foreign minister may make an unequivocal statement to the effect that Russia is willing to see the zone successfully established.

VOPT ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF CHEMICAL WELFARE IN NORTHEAST

BK091650Y Voice of the People of Thailand [Clandestine] in Thai to Thailand 1000 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK

[Unattributed article: "Denounce and Oppose the Kriangsak Government's Use of Chemical Poison to Barbarously and Inhumanely Kill the Northeastern People"]

[Text] The barbarous and inhumane killing of the northeastern people with chemical poison by the Kriangsak government is a serious crime deserving the severest punishment. In particular, many people in Udon Thani have been killed and victimized by poison. This has infuriated the people. We--the people--resolutely condemn and oppose such barbarous and inhumane acts of the Kriangsak government. It must immediately stop such acts.

The Kriangsak government has committed this crime of poisoning the people while the northeastern people are facing grave misery from drought. They have been unable to farm and have food and water shortages. Instead of helping those people, the Kriangsak government has poisoned the meager amount of food which the northeastern people have left. This depraved act constitutes the most coldblooded attempt to compound the problems of the northeastern people and another serious crime against the people following the clique's bloody 6 October incident.

The Kriangsak government has repeatedly clamored that it has not neglected the people's hardship and that it will tackle the people's economic well-being as its first priority. However, its acts have made a lie out of its statement.

The Kriangsak government has pretended to observe human rights and international law, but by using chemical poison to kill people, it has shown that it is the blatant violator of human rights and principles of international law which prohibit the use of poisons for the purpose of war.

The use of chemical poison and weapons which are prohibited in the course of war to barbarously and unhumanely kill the northeastern people is part of a depraved scheme to intensify the Kriangsak government's fascist dictatorship and people-suppression acts it is currently pursuing throughout the country. It has the illusion that barbarous measures will effectively demoralize the people and stop them from rising up to oppose its nation-selling, fascist dictatorial and nation-plundering activities. It is definitely wrong. Its barbarous measures will only fuel the fire of indignation among the people and encourage them to oppose it more vehemently and thus hasten its doom.

The justice-loving people throughout the country and the people's armed forces in every location definitely will not allow the government of the Kriangsak fascist warlord clique to perpetrate crimes against the northeastern people at will. They will employ all measures to expose, condemn and oppose the clique and crush its evil scheme.

ARMED FORCES PUNISH CAMBODIAN INTRUSIONS 27 FEBRUARY-4 MARCH

OW091509Y Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar VNA--The armed forces of Tay Ninh Province on 3-4 March put out of action almost 100 Kampuchean intruders in Lo Go and Xa Mat areas. They also seized 45 firearms. Vietnamese armed forces on 4 March also intercepted Kampuchean raiders north of the Ka Tum crossroads south of Vang Trang Trau, and north and east of Phuoc Tan, wiping out dozens of them. The remnants were driven away.

In other interceptions from 27 February to 3 March in Lo Go, Xa Mat, Trong Diec and Ka Tum (Tay Ninh) and at a border post at Hoa Ku (Song Be), Vietnamese armed forces put out of action more than 160 Kampuchean intruders and seized many weapons. Fighting Kampuchean raiders in the same period in Dinh Ba and Thuong Phuoc areas in Hong Ngu district, Dong Thap province, Vietnamese armed forces inflicted 130 casualties and captured a big quantity of weapons.

CAMBODIAN REFUGEE DETAILS CAMBODIAN ATROCITIES

OW100443Y Hanoi VNA in English 0257 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 7 March article: "'Kampuchea Is a Hell-hole,' Says Refugee"]

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--Hardly had she reached the border guard post on Vietnamese territory--with a little child in her arms--than Pang Ph. burst out crying.

Pang Ph. was among the hundreds of Kampuchean refugees who crossed the border in December 1977 and sought shelter at a border post in Tay Ninh, northwest of Ho Chi Minh City. She looked like an old woman in her shabby clothes with a sick child in her arms. I saw her the day when she managed to flee into Vietnam's territory.

[It was] only when I talked with her later that she told me she was only 37 years old and her son was nearly one year old. Life in "co-operatives" in Kampuchea had made her look at least twenty years older than her age.

"My name is Pang Ph.," she said. "I'm a native of Bavet area, in Svay Teap district, Svay Rieng Province". In a sobbing voice, she told about the hard times she and other Kampuchean had experienced back in Kampuchea and why they had sought to flee her country.

"Men had to live in military camps," she said. "They had to do manual work even at night in the light of torches. Those who had a family were allowed to go home only once or twice a month. Children aged below 12 were allowed to go home at nightfall and return to their camps at daybreak. No family was allowed to keep their own kitchen utensils for cooking without permission from the authorities.

"Kids from 13 years upward had to settle permanently in camps where they were sent for manual labour and military training. Men of 16 upward were all drafted into the army. In the past two years, I saw no child in my village go to school...."

These memories of life in Kampuchea made Pang Ph. sob again. She looked down on her torn sarong which failed to cover all her legs. After a pause, she continued:

"The day my daughter fell sick, we had no medicine available in our camp. Anxious, my husband left his base camp and went to see her. Armed men were sent to my house right afterward, asking my husband to go with them for military training. They said we were then going to launch a big attack on the Vietnamese. My husband tried to plead for his action, but he was arrested and taken to an unknown destination. Afterward, I learned that he had been killed by the district authorities. Five days after my husband was arrested, my daughter died".

Pang Ph. said that as more and more children died, some of her villagers began to protest. They were brutally treated and were accused of having "eaten Vietnamese baits" or "rallying with Vietnamese!"

"Similar charges were also levelled at those who did not get along with the authorities," Pang Ph. said. "We often had to attend meetings in our camp and every meeting began with a Kampuchean cadre raving: 'Vietnam is an expansionist country, and our traditional enemy. We must hate Vietnam and fight the Vietnamese. Those who oppose this line will be punished....'"

Pang Ph.'s story was substantiated by many other Kampuchean refugees. The latter gave further evidence of atrocities committed by the Phnom Penh rulers against their own people.

SRV BORDER STAND SUPPORTED IN POLAND, BULGARIA, ZIMBAWE

OW091557Y Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--The president of the Polish Peace Committee [PPC] has expressed the Polish peace movement's indignation at the increasing attacks by Kampuchean troops on Vietnamese border areas, causing serious losses in lives and property to the Vietnamese people.

In a letter to the Vietnam Peace Committee, the PPC leader said: "It is a matter of great concern that the Kampuchean authorities continue to reject the peace proposals repeatedly made by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for solving problems concerning the relations between the two countries on the basis of equality and respect for each other's independence and territorial integrity and in the spirit of friendship and solidarity between the Indochinese peoples."

The letter went on: "The Presidium of the Polish Peace Committee supports the new and constructive proposal made in the SRV Government's statement of 5 February 1978, and considers it a manifestation of the Vietnamese people's goodwill and desire to live in peace and friendship."

The Bulgaria-Vietnam Friendship Association yesterday issued a statement saying: "Together with public opinion throughout the country, the association firmly supports Vietnam's constructive proposals for a peaceful settlement of the border conflict and fully approves the Vietnamese stand on the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea."

When receiving Truong Binh, Vietnamese ambassador to Mozambique, Robert Mugabe, president of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, voiced support for the SRV statement of 5 February 1978, and said he believed that the proposal of the Vietnamese Government will solve satisfactorily the problems concerning Vietnam-Kampuchea relations.

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN CITED ON LAOS-VIETNAM RELATIONS

OW091553Y Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--Kaysone Phomvihan recently exalted the special relationship between Laos and Vietnam and reiterated his support [to] the three-point proposal made in the Vietnamese Government's statement of 5 February on the relations between Vietnam and Kampuchea.

In a report delivered at a joint conference between the Supreme People's Council and the State Council of Laos held in Vientiane on 2-3 March, Kaysone Phomvihan, general-secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, said:

"The external policy of the Lao party and state is to unite closely with friendly socialist countries, promote our special relationship with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, strengthen solidarity with the nonaligned countries, maintain and broaden normal relations and economic cooperation with other countries which respect the independence and sovereignty of Laos, increase our activities in international organisations and in the United Nations Organisation, resolutely struggle against the schemes of interference and aggression by imperialism and colonialism old and new, against racism and apartheid, actively support the movement for national independence, democracy and socialism in the world, make positive contributions to defending peace in this region and elsewhere."

He continued: "Our activities over the recent past have proved that our party and state's foreign line and policies are correct. They have helped to raise the position of our country in the international arena, and to strengthen our position and increase our forces at home and abroad."

KPL REPORT ON THAI FIRING NEAR VIENTIANE CITED

OW091537Y Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--A Thai combat launch yesterday fired at a Lao patrol along the Mekong River in Vientiane, reports KHAOSAN PATHET LAO (KPL) today [as received].

At the same time, another Thai combat launch crossed the river and fired hundreds of rounds of machinegun fire at Sitha Neua village and in the direction of Vientiane, causing losses in lives and property to inhabitants. The administrative office in Chanthaburi district and the house of French Embassy personnel were hit.

The Thai ambassador in Vientiane was summoned to the Lao Foreign Ministry this afternoon [as received] and served with a protest note.

XUAN THUY MEETS WITH GDR LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY DELEGATION

OW091559Y Hanoi VNA in English 1507 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--Xuan Thuy, secretary and chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and vice chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee, received the delegation of the Liberal Democratic Party of the German Democratic Republic in Ho Chi Minh City today. The delegation is led by Dr Manfred Gerlach, president of the party executive committee, vice chairman of the GDR council of state, and presidium member of the National Council of the National Front.

VCP DELEGATION PAYS LAST RESPECTS TO SED OFFICIALS

OW091551Y Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--A delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam this morning went to the embassy of the German Democratic Republic here and paid a floral tribute to Werner Lamberz, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party [SED] of Germany, and Paul Markowski, member of the SED Central Committee and head of the committee's International Relations Board, who lost their lives in a recent plane crash.

The delegation, led by Le Van Luong, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, included Nguyen Thanh Le, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of its Commission for External Relations; Nguyen Vinh, member of the party Central Committee; Hoang Luong, vice minister for foreign affairs; and others.

The wreath of the delegation is inscribed: "Profound regret for Comrade Werner Lamberz and Comrade Paul Markowski!" Le Van Luong signed the mourning book. Respects to the two GDR leaders were also paid today by deputations of many public services and mass organizations in Hanoi.

NHAN DAN Article on Lamberz

OW100749Y Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--"Werner Lamberz is no more, but his image remains in the hearts of his comrades, who are grief-stricken by his death during a mission abroad", says NHAN DAN today.

The paper, in an article entitled "We Have Lost a Great Friend," writes: "To Werner Lamberz, as to all other genuine communists, friendship with Vietnam was part of his world outlook. And this clear outlook, this firm stand of proletarian internationalism, and Werner Lamberz himself, have their origin in the socialist system in the German Democratic Republic, of which the deceased was both a product and an architect".

NHAN DAN praises Werner Lamberz' contributions to socialist Germany, and his tireless work for friendship with Vietnam.

"Remembering Werner Lamberz, our beloved brother, comrade and companion-in-arms, we share his unshakable belief in the bright future of the German Democratic Republic and of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and in the imperishable cause of socialism and communism in the world", the paper concludes.

AUSTRIAN, GREEK ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO NGUYEN HUU THO

OW091555Y Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--Dr Willfried Gredler, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria, and Dhmitrios Velissaropoulos, the first ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hellenic Republic to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, today presented their credentials to Vice President Nguyen Huu Tho. The vice president cordially talked with the Austrian and Greek ambassadors.

GIAP BOOK ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL PROBLEMS PUBLISHED

OW100736Y Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 10 Mar (VNA)--A book entitled "Problems of the Scientific and Technical Revolution in Vietnam" by Vo Nguyen Giap, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and vice premier of the government, has been published by the Su That (Truth) Publishing House here.

The 233-page book includes Vo Nguyen Giap's speeches at scientific and technical conferences and at the fourth party congress on scientific achievements in service of production, everyday life and the recent resistance war in Vietnam.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ISSUES DIRECTIVE ON GRAIN PROCUREMENT

BK091654Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Report on "recent" resolution of the SRV Council of Ministers on grain procurement]

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued a resolution on tasks related to grain in the new situation.

The resolution pointed out: Grain is the most basic requirement of the people's lives and a very important strategic commodity of our state. In the north, during the recent war years, by implementing positive procedures, policies and measures, our party and state succeeded in firmly maintaining and vigorously promoting agricultural production. Through their great efforts, all sectors and levels contributed to resolving the problems of grain and foodstuffs, thus insuring victory for our military struggle while providing for the people's livelihood.

Since the complete liberation of the south, under the leadership and guidance of the party Central Committee and Government, the countryside has undergone important changes. All sectors and levels have made and are still making all-out efforts to restore and develop agriculture while stepping up grain procurement work. Thanks to this, the state has gained control over an important supply of grain and goods and has been able to meet the urgent needs of soldiers, cadres, workers and civil servants of the state, and of non-agricultural people in large towns and cities, industrial zones and in intensive fishing, salt producing and industrial crop areas. It has also been able to satisfy most of the requirements of the national economy.

Generally speaking, however, the agriculture of our country is still unable to insure a sufficient supply of grain and foodstuffs for the people, raw materials for industry, and farm produce for export. Our grain tasks are still beset by many difficulties, weaknesses and shortcomings. As pointed out by the resolution of the second party Central Committee plenum, our most serious shortcoming has been our neglect of the production, processing and consumption of subsidiary food crops.

In the new situation, the guidelines and tasks for our grain procurement services are the following: On the basis of our efforts to fulfill and overfulfill the targets of the state plans concerning grain production, we must satisfactorily organize procurement work so as to put large amounts of grain under state control in accordance with state-established norms and policies; and we must insure a rational and economical distribution of grain to those consumers entitled to food subsidies and to other sectors of the national economy in conformity with state norms, policies and procedures. We must resolutely economize on grain and combat waste and misappropriation in the production, collection, transportation, storage, distribution and consumption of farm produce.

We must resolutely struggle against the hoarding and smuggling of grain, gradually abolish unregulated grain markets, and place all grain throughout the country under unified state management.

The resolution went on to expound the specific tasks of and concrete policies and measures to be implemented by the grain procurement services. Placing the largest possible amount of grain under state control is a task of paramount importance for the socialist state, a task aimed at insuring a planned and organized distribution and circulation of grain so as to effectively support production, stabilize the people's lives and create favorable conditions for abolishing unregulated markets and for building and satisfactorily managing socialist grain markets.

The state can achieve control over grain in two ways--by levying agricultural taxes and by purchasing grain under annual plans through the signing and implementation of two-way economic contracts between the state and the agricultural cooperatives and peasants.

Agricultural cooperatives and peasants are obliged to pay agricultural taxes fully and in kind in conformity with the agricultural tax policy currently in force in both the north and the south. In the northern provinces, state norms call for the collection and purchase of 90 percent of the grain produced by cooperatives and peasants. In the southern provinces, where individual production still prevails in agriculture and at a time when the state is still unable to fully satisfy all the people's need for food, peasants are allowed to resolve for themselves the problem of grain supply and distribution in the countryside. However, we must closely follow their production work and educate and motivate them to pay agricultural taxes fully and to sell, for the time being, about 70 to 80 percent of their grain surplus to the state.

Along with guiding agricultural cooperatives to satisfactorily fulfill their obligation to pay agricultural taxes and to sell grain to the state, all local leaders, especially in districts and villages, should closely guide cooperatives to effectively carry out grain distribution within cooperatives. This task must still be carried out in conformity with the principles of "to each according to his work," with attention being paid to providing food for those people who are really totally or partly unfit for work.

On the basis of the amount of grain already put under state control, we must strengthen and improve the management of grain distribution among nonagricultural sectors and people, and see to it that this distribution is consistent with our actual grain production capacity, with the need to insure a grain supply for carrying out socialist industrialization and the redistribution of the workforce, and with the policy calling for unified state management of all grain.

For its part, our grain distribution policy must reflect more fully the principle of "to each according to his work." At the same time, we must pay attention to meeting the food needs of those people who are unfit for work. We must combine grain distribution work with manpower management, household and population management, produce management and market management so as to insure rational and economical grain consumption. We must gradually unify and perfect grain distribution procedures and norms throughout the country.

The resolution sets forth specific policies for the distribution of grain to the armed forces; workers and personnel of the state and joint public-private enterprises; students of higher education and vocational middle schools and state vocational schools; those who engage in light industry and handicrafts in urban areas and sell all their products to the state; those who transport or perform construction work for the state; those who specialize in fishery, salt production, forestry and handicraft

trades or in livestock breeding or concentrated cultivation of vegetables and industrial crops but who lack grain; those who go to build the new economic areas; and the people of other nonagricultural sectors in the various municipalities and cities.

The grain sector must insure that grain is distributed according to demand in the state-controlled sectors to the correct recipients and in accordance with set policies, criteria and quantitative and qualitative specifications; closely manage grain in all operations, storage, transportation or sales; and coordinate with other sectors concerned to regularly inspect the consumption of grain at public restaurants and collective mess halls of the various organs and enterprises. Resolute efforts must be made to guard against the theft of grain and the practice of trading in grain in any form or of falsifying the number of recipients or allowance quotas in order to draw more grain from the state.

In the north, on the basis of the ever-growing socialist trade and the constant consolidation and improvement of socialist production relations, the state must control most of the traded grain to meet the requirements of production and the people's livelihood where they are not taken care of by the agricultural cooperatives. It is necessary to do away with the unregulated grain market during 1978.

In the southern provinces, effective measures and concrete plans must be carried out to curtail the unregulated grain market for a 6-month or 10-year period and to proceed toward permanently abolishing it in 1980. As an immediate measure, traders are not permitted to trade in paddy, rice, wheat flour, corn, kaoliang, dried potatoes, dried manioc and manioc flour.

The resolution sets forth the tasks concerning leadership, guidance and the organization of work, and entrusts the various echelons, sectors and mass organizations with specific responsibility for disseminating and satisfactorily implementing it among the cadres and people. It stresses: The 1978 state plan for economic development in general and on production and the grain procurement task in particular must be considered as a very important focal point. We must create a profound and marked change in ideology, policy, organization and management in all operations--from production to circulation, distribution, consumption and management of the grain market--and resolutely punish speculators and smugglers who disrupt the grain market in order to insure the successful achievement of the norms set forth in the state plan.

The Ministry of Grain and Food, together with local people's committees, must pay attention to improving the organization of cadres and personnel of the entire sector and educating them ideologically and professionally to make them fully understand their tasks and firmly grasp the set policies so that they will actively improve their work methods, correctly follow the mass line and closely watch the situation concerning production and the people's livelihood to carry out the sector's activities with good results.

WOMEN'S UNION RESOLUTION ON NEW CONSTRUCTION MOVEMENT

OW101018Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 8 Mar 78 OW

[Vietnam Women's Union Central Committee resolution launching the "new women for national construction" movement, read by Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the VCP Central Committee and first deputy chairwoman of the union, at 6 March Hanoi meeting marking International Women's Day and the Trung sisters' death anniversary]

[Summary] Our fatherland is entering a new historic stage, when the whole country is advancing toward socialism. The fourth VCP Congress set forth a revolutionary line aimed at building a socialist collective ownership system, large-scale socialist production, a new culture and a new type of socialist man.

Following the resolutions of the second and third party Central Committee plenums, the third session of the Sixth National Assembly adopted the 1976-1980 5-year state plan and the 1978 state plan. The 5-year plan has two basic, pressing objectives: building a material and technical base of socialism and improving the people's living conditions.

"The new revolutionary requirements and tasks demand that we whip up a powerful mass movement with stirring revolutionary mettle, and that we highly develop the working people's leading role and creativity. Women, who represent half of the population, presently constitute an important force in production sectors and social activities. They plan a very great role in national transformation and construction. As organizers of social life and families, and in their noble capacity as mothers women also have great capabilities and responsibility for building a new culture and new type of socialist man. In this 5-year plan in particular, the continued development of the women's revolutionary zeal and capabilities has great significance in agricultural collectivization, building a large-scale socialist agriculture, accelerating agricultural production and resolving the problem of grain, foodstuffs, and consumer and export goods."

Vietnamese women have traditionally been patriotic and hardworking. During the anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation, the "five good" and "three responsibility" movements manifested the undaunted mettle and intelligence of the women throughout the country and made a worthy contribution to the nation's great victory. The new stage further demands that women develop their heroic traditions and devote all their efforts to productive labor in order to conquer nature, end poverty and backwardness, build a prosperous country and defend our independence and sovereignty achieved by the sacrifices of countless generations.

"Responding to the revolutionary requirements and tasks, to women's interests and aspirations and to the concerted socialist emulation movement, the Vietnam Women's Union Central Committee now launches the 'new women for national construction' movement with the slogans 'Versed in state affairs, skilled in domestic activities' and 'Equality between men and women' to motivate all women to fulfill their responsibilities toward the fatherland, their families and themselves.

"The 'new women for national construction' movement is a great revolutionary movement with two objectives: 1) to motivate and develop to the highest degree women's role and capability as collective mistresses in transforming the old society and building a new one, building a prosperous country and successfully fulfilling the 1976-1980 5-year state plan and the 1978 state plan. 2) to train themselves as new women who realistically care for women's and children's interests."

The "new women for national construction" movement outlines women's responsibility toward the fatherland, their families and themselves. New women engage in productive labor, practice economy, satisfactorily implement state policies, organize their families well, raise their children in accordance with Uncle Ho's five teachings, unite with one another, love and help one another. New women exercise their right of collective ownership, love their country and socialism, are imbued with international solidarity and are capable of mastering society, nature and themselves. New women constantly raise their capabilities and qualities and are determined to eradicate the vestiges of the old regime that still exist in society and in themselves such as selfishness, narrow-mindedness, reliance on others, superstition and so forth.

The "new women for national construction" movement will motivate women to apply themselves in the following areas: fulfilling their labor obligation; increasing their productive hours; working with discipline and high efficiency; economizing raw materials and ceaselessly raising the quality of their products and work.

Regarding agriculture, the primary task in this 5-year plan, in addition to motivating women to increase cultivation and livestock breeding, it is necessary to launch a movement for family livestock breeding with the slogan "One person raises five chickens, one household two or three pigs," and movements to process subsidiary crops, raise silk-worms, plant fruit trees and fully utilize individual gardens.

Women workers will develop innovations, rationalize production and improve techniques. Intellectual women will raise the efficiency of their researches and apply scientific and technical knowledge in support of production and their livelihood. Women will comply with all state laws and policies, motivate their husbands and sons to enthusiastically discharge their national defense obligation, and actively participate in maintaining order and security and protecting state and collective property. They will raise harmonious families, adopt family planning, economize and observe sanitation rules.

So that the "new women for national construction" movement may become a widespread mass movement, various party committee echelons should take the lead and administrative agencies and mass organizations should offer active assistance. It is necessary to make every woman understand the requirements and substance of the movement as well as her responsibility and interests.

"The launching of the 'new women for national construction' movement on the occasion of International Women's Day and the Trung sisters' death anniversary on 8 March 1978 marks a new development in the Vietnamese women's movement. The Vietnamese women, who made untold sacrifices in the struggle to master their own destiny, will resolutely devote all their efforts to building a prosperous fatherland, thus realizing beloved Uncle Ho's teaching: 'The beautiful mountains and rivers of Vietnam are rendered more magnificent by the efforts of our women, young and old.

"For the future of our fatherland, for our children's happiness and for women's liberation let all Vietnamese women of all ages, all religions and in all areas of the country as well as all overseas Vietnamese women develop the traditions of the Trung sisters and the heroine Trieu, unite, work hard and advance!"

NHAN DAN ON IMPORTANCE OF CORRECT PRICING POLICIES

BK041400Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK

[NHAN DAN 4 March editorial: "Firmly Grasp the Viewpoints of Correctly Implementing the Pricing Task"]

[Text] Pricing is one of the party's major economic policies and is an important management tool of the state. It is a very difficult and complicated matter. The use of prices in computing the costs of social labor, in distributing and redistributing national income and as a lever to stimulate production, guide consumption and improve business management with a view to supporting the political-economic tasks of each revolutionary stage is of paramount importance.

Under the leadership and guidance of the party Central Committee and government, a system of prices was established in the period 1950-51. Through various stages of planned economic restoration and development and of the anti-U.S. national salvation struggle, the price system has been gradually adjusted according to the requirements of the political-economic tasks of each stage and has contributed to the building of an independent and sovereign economy along the line of advancing from small to large-scale socialist production.

At a time when the national economy still faces many difficulties arising from the heavy consequences of colonialist and feudalism regimes and of the war, along with implementing all of the investment and credit policies as well as other lines, policies and measures, the state has gradually adjusted and increased the purchase prices of agricultural, marine and forestry products on the one hand, and, on the other, has striven to maintain the selling prices of production materials bought by the agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors and to stabilize the retail prices of consumer goods sold to the people.

These policies support and accelerate the development of production and socialist transformation, expand the circulation of goods and improve and consolidate the new production relations. However, thus far, the directed prices have had limited effect. The monitoring and implementation of price policies are still unsatisfactory in some respects. Apart from some achievements and good points, there are still deficiencies and shortcomings, of which the most outstanding is the fixing of high prices for purchasing rice sold voluntarily to the state. This has caused disrupted relations between the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors and among various cooperatives and zones. Price management and control as well as the implementation of price policies in combination with other policies still lack firmness. Violations of the principles and policies of prices still occur in various state agencies and enterprises.

Entering the new stage, various sectors and echelons have made some initial progress in their struggle to restore and develop production and to improve economic and social management. National income from production is nearing that gained from consumption [as heard]. Some of the difficulties left behind by the war have been overcome.

However, since our economy is still generally based on small production and was seriously damaged by a long war, there are still many loopholes and shortcomings in the organizational and managerial fields which have caused irrationally high production expenses and costs which conflict with the set prices. Free market prices have rapidly increased and the state is still unable to exercise control over many sources of goods. The distribution of goods is still unfair and irrational. The still prevalent free market and the unregulated market have caused many difficulties to workers and civil servants and to all strata of the laboring people.

The new situation and tasks require us to affect a prompt change in the pricing task and to study the establishment of a more rational price system and an appropriate price management formula. Early in January 1978, the party Central Committee Political Bureau issued a resolution on the pricing task in the new situation. As an immediate goal, it has been decided to adjust the purchase prices of a number of vital agricultural products, such as rice, subsidiary food crops and hogs, and a quantity of necessary industrial crops, and to adjust and stabilize the prices of a number of production means and staple consumer commodities closely related to agriculture, with attention given to the requirement for advancing toward standardizing prices nationwide.

Following this adjustment of prices, it is necessary to strengthen price management and to continue to carry out studies in order to gradually perfect the price system in conformity with the requirement for building a foundation for large-scale socialist production. To solve the price problem, it is necessary to rely on the working class and the general interests of the entire people, and to consider the situation of the nationwide socialist construction undertaking. The establishment of a rational price system must be considered on the basis of accelerating production, strengthening price management, striving to increase labor productivity, reducing production costs, stabilizing prices, and gradually improving the people's life.

The political bureau resolution points out: The price system must fully reflect economic laws, use set plans as a basis, promote the laboring people's right to collective ownership, serve economic development and transformation and cultural development and strengthen economic and financial management with the aim of making full use of the work force, land, forests and maritime resources and all other means of production so as to produce as many use values as possible with increasingly greater economic effect, in order to meet the requirements for building the material and technical base of socialism and to improve the people's life.

The present adjustment of prices for purchasing agricultural products--which is linked to the policy of investment, credit and purchase of grain and other kinds of agricultural products and which is associated with the supply of materials and the distribution of consumer industrial commodities on the basis of two-way economic contracts between the state and the peasants--will certainly create favorable conditions for the distribution of the work force and the reorganization of production in the district areas, for satisfactorily combining agriculture, forestry, fishing and industry, for accelerating the development of agricultural production, for establishing a firm base upon which to comprehensively develop the national economy, and for successfully implementing the 5-year state plan.

FINANCE OFFICIAL ON MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OF NEW ECONOMIC AREAS

BK091104Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 7 Mar 78 BK

[NHAN DAN article by (Nguyen Van Chuyen), head of the agricultural, forestry and water conservancy finances department of the Ministry of Finance: "Insure Effectiveness of Capital Invested in Opening Virgin Land and Building New Economic Areas"--date not given]

[Text] The opening of virgin land, which permits redistribution of the work force on a national scale in accordance with the requirements for reorganizing production and developing agricultural production along the line of large-scale socialist production, is a major and urgent new task fraught with many difficulties and complexities. There have been many achievements in this regard, but considerable shortcomings and weaknesses remain.

Results of the plan to open new land and build new economic areas have been poor compared with the requirement for expanding cultivated areas to rapidly increase agricultural output. In many localities it has taken a long time to bring newly reclaimed land under cultivation because technical procedures were not strictly followed during reclamation work and preparations for production were sloppy, or because the relocation of labor and population fell short of annual plans or fell behind the cultivation schedule. Moreover, difficulties concerning the livelihood of new settlers have affected the plan for opening new land.

Most noteworthy are the shortcomings and weaknesses in economic and financial management. The opening of new land and construction projects in new economic areas have not proceeded according to a well-coordinated, standardized plan. The quality of land reclamation and construction has been poor. Preparations for sending people to new economic areas and organizing labor at the receiving end, have been insufficient. The supplying of equipment, materials and provisions has been slow and unsatisfactory. Coordination between provinces sending out people and those receiving them and among the various echelons and branches has been poor and loose, producing much waste in many respects.

Capital management has not yet received due attention. Over the past 2 years the state has invested about 500 million dong in various land reclamation projects managed by the state, various cooperatives and the army. These funds, however, have not been satisfactorily used and managed. In some places production costs have been too high, many expenditures have exceeded the set limits and some funds have been lost to waste and corruption.

Because of these weaknesses, the substantial state capital provided for opening new lands has produced poor results which are inconsistent with the attention paid by the party and state to this crucial task in agricultural development.

In 1976 and 1977 we should have fulfilled about 25 percent of the new-land-opening and new-economic-area-building targets of the 5-year plan. The tasks and volume of work still to be achieved in this field between 1978 and 1980 are enormous. Accordingly the Council of Ministers has issued a directive calling for efforts to insure satisfactory fulfillment of the plan to open new land and to send laborers to build new economic areas for 1977, and for turning these efforts into a vigorous movement in 1978 and beyond. The Council of Ministers also decided to promulgate policies regarding cooperatives and providing for the expansion of agricultural and forestry production area, for building new economic areas and achieving settled farming and settled life.

In launching and leading movements to send laborers to build new economic areas over the next few years, especially in 1978, it is absolutely essential that all levels and sectors firmly grasp the contents and the guidelines, policies and principles expounded by the various decisions and directives of the Council of Ministers in order to satisfactorily fulfill the planned task of opening 300,000 hectares of new lands and to insure that the capital invested will achieve high economic efficiency.

Many localities have become experienced in motivating the people and launching mass movements to promote the opening of new land and building of new economic areas. Any locality which has widely and continually carried out propaganda and mass motivation work both within the party and among the masses to enable everyone to gain a profound understanding of the revolutionary significance of the movement has succeeded in promptly fulfilling its plan to send laborers to new economic area, in enhancing the people's sense of collective ownership and in insuring their enthusiastic departure to build new homes. Effective mass motivation and organizational methods have allowed many localities to further advance the movement to open new lands, to build new economic areas and to achieve quick, substantial results with limited capital provided by the state. The many successful experiences of some northern provinces and some southern districts and villages in this field should be reviewed and exploited.

However, not everyone has realized that a fairly sizable amount of our manpower and land remains idle and that our equipment, materials and capital are limited. For this reason, some people think that the financial aid provided by the state for opening new land and building new economic areas is still too little.

Some want more state subsidies than those provided under the current policies, even for projects which the cooperatives and people can carry out with their own resources or through mutual assistance and cooperation.

Every one of us should realize that as a result of an atrocious war lasting several decades, we still have to face many difficulties. The Council of Ministers promulgation of the investment policy aimed at aiding cooperatives to expand their agricultural and forestry production areas and to build new economic areas, and at providing ever more capital for building material and technical bases and economic units such as state farms and state forestry sites in new economic areas, has been a great help on the part of the party and state. In the face of the common difficulties of the country, the state can only finance necessary projects and requires that the broad masses of people bring their revolutionary zeal into the fullest play and that they discharge their obligations to the fatherland. It is necessary for the people to overcome the tendency of depending too much on state-provided capital.

We are now facing many difficulties regarding equipment, materials and funds necessary for opening new land, expanding the cultivated area and building new economic areas. However, much of the newly opened land still lies fallow; land clearing machinery and equipment are still underused; in many new economic areas, a large number of laborers has not yet been rationally organized and utilized; and a considerable amount of manpower remains unexploited. For this reason, in 1978 all sectors, levels, state-operated economic establishments and cooperatives in new economic areas must concentrate their efforts on improving and strengthening their managerial work so as to make the best possible use of the material and technical bases, work force, materials and equipment currently available or to be acquired in 1978 in order to fulfill the task of opening new land and building new economic areas.

With regard to capital, state investments in opening new land and building new economic areas for 1978 will nearly double those for 1976. Directive No 413 issued by the premier of the government on 17 November 1977 has laid down the principles for planning the use of materials, equipment and capital in opening new land and building new economic areas. The directive stipulated that capital provided by the state budgets for local budgets must be used by the localities for the purposes approved or specified by the ministry of agriculture and strictly in accordance with the policies and procedures currently in force. It is necessary to overcome the practice of embarking on too many projects at one time and to guard against careless spending and waste of capital.

To overcome the difficulties caused by poor planning work and by lack of equipment, materials, manpower and other means needed for carrying out projects already approved, we should firmly grasp the principle that we must concentrate all our resources to definitely complete projects one by one so as to quickly put them into production. No construction work should be undertaken without adequate preparation. No production work should be undertaken without adequate preparation. No production work should be initiated without proper planning.

If we cannot totally complete a project, we must insure at least that it meets the minimum requirements stipulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and various sectors so that we can carry out production while continuing construction and improving planning. If we have insufficient technical equipment and machinery, we must concentrate them for key projects and important tasks while making the best use of available manpower, the local work force and laborers contributed by neighboring provinces to organize work-sites where manual labor is used in conjunction with fully mechanized or semimechanized means to carry out our tasks.

We should not embark on too many scattered projects at the same time, because this will lead to a shortage of manpower, materials and capital; hamper managerial work; and foster waste and corruption.

All sectors, levels and provinces--including both those sending people and those welcoming them to build new economic areas--should uphold their own responsibilities. All sectors should fulfill their duties, promptly supplying equipment, materials and food according to plan, studying and meeting on the spot the minimum requirements of the grassroots level and the agricultural sector, and helping the agricultural sector and all localities consolidate and strengthen the provincial and district managerial apparatus supervising the opening of new land and the building of new economic areas so that they may closely and effectively control all planning work and the use of manpower, materials, equipment and capital, right from the beginning.

Opening new land and building new economic areas are major, urgent tasks requiring considerable capital. These tasks are encountering many complex difficulties, because they call for considerable investments at a time when the state can only afford a limited outlay. Many new economic areas have not yet carried out planning work and have not yet been assigned specific construction tasks, especially the task of establishing enterprises in cooperatives. Provincial committees for the opening of new land and the building of new economic areas and district committees for the building of new economic areas are still weak; in some localities, they do not yet exist.

The financial and banking sector should take note of all of the difficulties encountered and weaknesses developed by various localities in managing the capital slated for the opening of new land in the building of new economic areas over the past 2 years. The financial and banking sector should change their way of thinking and workstyle, insure a prompt supply of capital and do away with all troublesome procedures causing difficulties to the grassroots units and new economic areas.

At the same time, it should uphold its responsibility by actively managing and supervising the use of capital so as to insure that it is effectively used by all units and is not lost through waste or corruption. All municipal and provincial financial and banking services should work in close coordination with the State Bank in order to provide more specialized cadres for the agricultural sector; help various state farms, state forestry sites and cooperatives in new economic areas overcome the difficulties regarding planning and accounting; and insure that capital is used sparingly and correctly and that account books are balanced on schedule.

If we satisfactorily carry out these tasks, we will have favorable conditions for fulfilling the task of opening new land and building new economic areas in a highly efficient manner, according to plan and in conformity with state policy.

NHAN DAN ON ROLE OF FATHERLAND FRONT IN BUILDING SOCIALISM

BK091419Y Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[NHAN DAN 9 March editorial: "United and Build the Collective Ownership System"]

[Text] By setting forth five tasks for the 1978 program of action, the political parties, mass organizations and representatives of various nationalities and religions attending the second conference of the Vietnam Fatherland Front have once again displayed their determination to united and move forward to insure success for the socialist revolution and construction.

The glorious historic mission of the VFF in the new revolutionary stage is to unite all patriotic and prosocialist forces to pool their efforts to successfully build a prosperous and powerful socialist Vietnam and to insure a plentiful and happy life for the people. To link independence and freedom with socialism is to follow the natural course of history.

Comrade Le Duan has said: The socialist revolution is not only a way to maintain independence and freedom and insure a plentiful and happy life for our people, but is also a touchstone to test the patriotism of each Vietnamese. (From Comrade Le Duan's address at the 31 January 1978 congress of the national united front.)

This epochal truth has been manifested in the eight-point political program of the front and is compatible with our people's aspirations since the country won complete independence and unification. For more than a year, the political program and state plan have become a political program of action for the front members and scores of millions of manual and intellectual workers who have continuously progressed in exercising their right to collective ownership in their revolutionary undertakings. The seething mass emulation movements to perform productive labor and practice thrift, the brilliant exploits scored in performing labor and building and defending the fatherland and the many new factors emerging from the mass movements are splendid manifestations of the warm patriotism, resourcefulness, creativity and self-reliance of our people.

These powerful moral advantages, coupled with the laboring people's system of collective ownership based on the socialist system of ownership of production means and on the increasingly strengthened material and technical forces, have given immense strength to the all-people's united front. With the worker-peasant alliance at its core and broadening with each revolutionary development the national united front constitutes a factor insuring success for our people's revolutionary undertaking.

The year 1978 is important in the implementation of the (1976-1980) 5-year plan; it is also the year when our entire people will discuss and draft a new constitution aimed at institutionalizing the socialist collective ownership system. By carrying out realistic multifaceted activities, over the past year the front and mass organizations have positively contributed to strengthening political and moral unity in society. Millions of new front and youth union members have been admitted into mass organizations, bringing in a new vitality. With this new strength, the front and its constituent organizations, acting in conjunction with state agencies, will be able to launch broad, better-organized mass movements aimed at intensifying production, practicing thrift, increasing labor productivity and successfully carrying out the 1978 state plan.

Organizing the discussion and drafting of a new constitution this year will be an important campaign of political activities and socialist motivation. The VFF has been entrusted with organizing and guiding such debates. To be able to fulfill their new duties, the front organizations at all levels must be consolidated, implementation of tasks must be coordinated and new methods of action be instituted to suit the new situation and duties.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES' 1977 PROGRESS REPORTED

OW090303Y Hanoi VNA in English 0249 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Hanoi, 9 Mar (VNA)--The output value of local industry in Vietnam last year was half of that of the whole industrial branch and up by 12 percent compared with 1976.

In main southern provinces such as Dong Nai, An Giang, Hau Giang, Gia Lai-Cong Tum, and Quang Nam and in Ho Chi Minh City, the production rate increased from two to four times compared with the previous year.

In 1977, local industries supplied more than 310,000 improved wheelbarrows, 4,600,000 farm tools, 3,000 mechanical pumps and thousands of spare parts for agricultural, small engineering and food processing machines. Local industries of Ha Nam Ninh, Thanh Hoa and Vinh Phu provinces and Haiphong city helped agricultural cooperatives in forming small engineering terms in service of cultivation and stock-breeding.

By using home materials, consumer goods production establishments raised the output value 9.5 percent compared with 1976. Other commodities, such as cotton and silk fabrics, ready to-wear clothes and porcelainware increased by 100 to 400 percent. Song Be Province, north of Ho Chi Minh City, topped the list of porcelainware producers with 53,000,000 articles.

Hanoi, Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh City and many provinces overfulfilled their plan for export goods from 5 to 23 percent.

VARIATIONS TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON PHAM VAN DONG SRI LANKA VISIT

The following variations to the VNA report on the joint communique issued on Premier Pham Van Dong's visit to Sri Lanka, published as "Joint Communique Issued" under the headline "Pham Van Dong Concludes Visit to Sri Lanka; Communique Issued" on pages K 11 to K 14 of the 6 March DAILY REPORT, were derived from a 12-minute "full text" of the communique broadcast by Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese at 1430 GMT on 5 March.

Page K 11, third paragraph, line three, reads ...Lanka and held official talks with him... adding word "official."

Fifth paragraph, last line, reads ...of foreign affairs; Ngo Thiet Thach, deputy director of the Economic Relations Department of the premier's office and a number of other cadres.... adding names and titles.

Last paragraph, line nine, reads ...(Marinadmaike), secretary of the Ministry of Culture; [new line] (Hussein), director of the department in charge of nonalignment issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; [new line] Mr A.T. Moorthy... adding names and titles.

Page K 12, third paragraph, line five, reads ...build a just society and to... deleting the words "and free."

Sixth paragraph, line seven, reads ...in its efforts to eradicate all traces... deleting phrase "to preserve peace throughout the world."

Page K 13, first paragraph, lines three and four, read ...independence, prosperity and international cooperation.... deleting the last sentence.

BRIEFS

MEKONG DELTA RICE CROP--Tien Giang, An Giang, Dong Thap, Hau Giang and Cuu Long provinces of the Mekong River delta region have sown 80,000 hectares of high-yield rice varieties, thus basically fulfilled the planned norms. Tien Giang Province organized a workday with the participation of 200,000 people to carry out small-size irrigation projects, plow land and prepare seeds for the cultivation of 23,851 hectares. Dong Thap Province has sown 30,024 hectares. An Giang Province has sown 20,000 hectares. Peasants in these localities are beginning to harvest part of the high-yield winter-spring crop with an expected yield of 5 to 6 tons per hectare. [Ho Chi Minh City Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK]

FRASER CALLS FOR GREATER ACCESS TO DEVELOPED MARKETS

OW100143Y Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Prime Minister Fraser today again pressed the issue of greater access to the developed markets of Europe, Japan and North America. Mr Fraser, speaking in Canberra, said that access to the great markets of the developed world was a critical and central problem now facing the governments of almost every developing country. The major developed countries had a responsibility and an obligation to open markets for commodities, especially from the underdeveloped world.

The prime minister said Australia strongly supported the idea of international commodity agreements to provide exporters with a reliable market and importers with secure supplies at prices which are fair and equitable to both. Surely, he added, this system was not too much to ask for in a world where a third of its people had an average income of less than \$200 a year.

HAYDEN OUTLINES LABOR STANCE ON IMMIGRATION

OW081119Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 8 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Canberra, 8 Mar (AFP)--Refugees from Rhodesia and South Africa would be received in Australia assuming that other governments participated in humanity's responsibility to help those who felt they were in danger of their lives. This was the answer of the leader of the opposition in the national parliament, Mr Bill Hayden, at a press conference at the International Press Institute conference today when asked what a future Labor government would do or what would be the attitude of the Labor opposition if Rhodesians or white South Africans sought refuge in Australia.

"I do not welcome the idea of racist people increasing the number of people already in places like Queensland who make me feel uncomfortable in the way they treat our Australian aboriginals", Mr Hayden said. "However on grounds of humanity, when people fear for their safety, Australia with other countries must act to help."

Mr Hayden, in answer to questions from Indian delegates, said: "To me the color of a person's skin is not the determinant in deciding the right to immigrate. It is a question of the country's absorptive capacity to take specific skills. My side of politics favors family reunions no matter where the original immigrants have their origin."

VICTORIA FISHERMEN OPPOSE JOINT VENTURE WITH USSR

OW041245Y Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Commercial fishermen in Victoria are mounting a campaign in opposition to a proposed Australian-Russian joint fishing venture. The Russian state fishing organization is seeking a 45 percent interest in a consortium with two Australian companies. The consortium yesterday outlined to the federal minister for primary industry, Mr Sinclair, its plans to transform Australia's fishing industry with Russian research and technology.

The commercial fishermen's section of the Victorian Farmers Union, which represents 550 fishermen, said today Australia could ill afford to use her fishing waters as a trade-off to open more export markets for the country's primary industries.

SUDOMO REMARKS 'TRANQUILITY WEEK' PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY

BK091434Y Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Chief of Staff of the Security and Order Restoration Command [Kopkamtib], Admiral Sudomo, has said that the week of tranquility, launched on Monday in anticipation of the opening of the People's Consultative Assembly plenary session, is proceeding in an orderly way. The situation is quite peaceful and good, he said. He reminded (the people of the ban on the launching of activities requiring the mobilization of the masses).

Admiral Sudomo made these remarks yesterday after he, accompanied by Minister Sumarlin, had reported to President Suharto at Bina Graha on the results of "Operation Order" over the past 8 months.

Replying to press queries, Sudomo said the study strike decided upon by students violated existing laws and regulations and that firm action will be taken against those participating. That the study strike was in violation of existing laws and regulations had been decided on by Kopkamtib and the Education Department, Sudomo said. Sudomo said the study strikes lately reported in several towns had been instigated by a small group of off-campus elements. Stern action will be taken against the instigators, while rectors and school principals concerned will solve the problem of the "victims" of the instigators.

Sudomo did not exclude the possibility of the existence of instigators on the campuses. Repressive actions will be taken against them in the form of academic sanctions, which may include dismissals. He called on parents of college and high school students to prevent their children from being persuaded to join actions launched by the instigators. He also admitted that a number of students, victims of the instigators, are dependents of armed forces personnel.

Clashes Reported in Jakarta

BK091055Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1034 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpt] Jakarta, 9 Mar (AFP)--Several high school students were injured in a stone-throwing incident with armed troops in eastern Jakarta today. Informed sources said truckloads of troops converged on the high school at around 9 a.m. and were met by a barrage of stones thrown by the students. The same sources said the injured students suffered bayonet wounds. The military spokesman of the garrison command said he had not heard of the incident.

About three miles away from the high school, armed troops entered the Teachers Training College at noon to tear up hundreds of freshly put up anti-government posters.

The two incidents took place less than 48 hours before the 920-member national congress begins a 12-day session from Saturday to elect a president and vice-president and to chart out new basic policy guidelines for the state to follow in the next five years.

The anti-government posters campaign at the Teachers Training College (IKIP) called on congressmen and women to "heed the voice of the 135 million people rather than listening to the voice of one man only". One poster read: "Want to become a president? Find a good wife first". The posters which appeared early this morning were handwritten on one-by-one meter pieces of thick paper and pasted on trees, fences and walls of the IKIP buildings.

Hundreds of would-be teachers, wearing their green school jackets, lounged in the yards and in the corridors of their classes. Other posters asked the Supreme Advisory Council (DPA) to try "wayward generals," and called for the disbandment of the national security agency (Kopkamtib) because it was set up unconstitutionally.

The gates of the state University of Indonesia remained closed and padlocked today as campus authorities apparently thought it would be better to close the school rather than risk incidents should the striking students be involved in scuffles or possible clashes with security troops. The university students have declared a study strike beginning Monday until 25 March, two days after congress expects to wind up its 12-day marathon sessions.

Two former student leaders who had recently nominated themselves for president and vice president today urged congress to set up a "verification team" to investigate "rumors, news and reports regarding the president and members of his family, to set allowable limits for the personal wealth of future presidents and to publicly announce the results of the investigations." The two aspiring candidates, Dr Judil Herry and Dr Armein Daulay, sent copies of their statement to faction heads of congress and to the leadership of the Supreme Advisory Council (DPA) which advises President Suharto on all matters. Aside from the two former students, a former trade union leader named Darius Marpaung, has also nominated himself for the top job in the republic. Mr Marpaung said it would be inappropriate to have presidential elections with only one candidate.

BRIEFS

CENTRAL SULAWESI AIRFIELDS--Three airfields in Central Sulawesi Province are now in full operation following the inauguration of a new airfield in Buol Toli-Toli district by the communications minister on 24 February. With the functioning of the three airfields, the air service between Palu, capital of Central Sulawesi, and Toli-Toli by Merpati Nusantara Airlines [MNA] will be increased from the present 4 to 6 times weekly, while Buraq Airlines will serve the Manado-Gorontalo-Toli-Toli air route and vice versa. [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 24 Feb 78 BK]

RRI TRANSMITTING CAPACITY--Ambon--The Department of Information has, under the second 5-year plan (Repelita II), succeeded in boosting the capacity of the entire Indonesian radio communication network by 1,200 kv, and in renewing radio transmitters which have lost power of reach. This was disclosed by Dr Amir Nasution, head of the department's Planning Bureau, who on behalf of the department's secretary general, inaugurated a new building for the department's regional office here on 21 February. He said that both under Repelita I and under Repelita II the department had, besides development of transmitting capacity and widening of the transmission network, also undertaken the training of information personnel through various training programs. [Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 22 Feb 78 p 3 BK]

GARUDA-PAN AM AGREEMENT--Jakarta, 8 Mar--Garuda Indonesian Airways and the U.S. airline Pan American, have agreed to lower by 50 percent the fare for flights between Jakarta and the west coast of the United States, a Jakarta-based economic bulletin, BUSINESS NEWS, said recently, quoting sources from Garuda. According to the sources, this was the first cooperation of this kind ever reached between international airlines. Passengers from Jakarta heading for the west coast of the U.S. would fly Garuda to Hong Kong where Pan Am would fly them to the west coast of the United States. [Jakarta ANTARA in English 0750 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK]

MALUKU EXPORT EARNINGS--Maluku in 1977 exported \$66.8 million worth of logs, nutmeg, mace, copal gum, fish and shrimps, up 40 percent from the 1976 export earning of \$48.9 million. [Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 2300 GMT 4 Mar 78 BK]

MALAYSIA

'SUSTAINED PRESSURE' ADVOCATED ON BORDER COMMUNISTS

BK081339Y Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Mar 78 p 12 BK

[Editorial: "Border Operations"]

[Text] The three joint military operations last year dealt body blows to the communist terrorist network along the Malaysian-Thai border but the need for continued and intensified action against them is not over, as their recent attack on a training base proves. There are signs that though extremely weakened the communists have, since August 1977 when the last joint operation ended, been trying unsuccessfully to reestablish their food supply lines through terror tactics. This is to be expected. The 1977 operations destroyed a large number of communist camps as well as much of their infrastructure but not many communists were killed or came into actual contact with Thai and Malaysian security forces. Body count is not of course the sole criterion of success but it does mean that an estimated 3,000 communists are still somewhere in the border region. The news that the Thai Communist Party has formed a Thai-Moslem "liberation army" cannot be confirmed but it is indicative of the various forces at play in the border regions that the communists will try to exploit if given the chance. Hence the need for sustained pressure on them even as Malaysia and Thailand go about the economic and social development that ultimately will provide the solution to our common border problems. The joint military operations that are in the offing will help maintain pressure against the communists, but will it provide the sustained pressure that is necessary to keep the communists always on the run? It may be necessary for Malaysia and Thailand to look beyond more (and intensified) border operations: It might enhance the military and development efforts of both countries if some form of permanent security presence could be established in the border areas so that there will be no slack in our joint anti-communist momentum.

BRIEFS

SAUDI ARABIAN LOAN--Kuala Lumpur, 3 Mar--The Saudi Arabian Government has agreed to extend a loan of 44 million (ringgit) (about \$18 million) to open up a land development scheme in Kelantan State, where elections are due to be held on 11 Mar. Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh, who announced this last night in an election campaign speech, said the scheme would be administered by the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda). In addition, the Asian Development Bank had expressed its willingness to help finance a highway linking the communist-infested Gua Musang area in the east coast to Kuala Lumpur, the minister said. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 3 Mar 78 BK]

SINGAPORE

USSR'S FIRYUBIN CALLS ON RAJARATNAM AT CITY HALL

BK091311Y Singapore Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs N.P. Firyubin this morning called on Foreign Minister Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, at city hall. Also present was Soviet Ambassador to Singapore Yuriy Ivanovich Razdukhov. On the Singapore side there were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rahim Ishak and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ong Soo Chuan.

Mr Firyubin is on a 4-day private visit to the republic. This afternoon Mr Firyubin visited the Housing and Development Board [HDB] office on (Maxel) Road for a briefing on the HDB program. He later toured Toa Payo housing estate.

MARCOS COMMENTS ON U.S. BASES, MARTIAL LAW, ELECTIONS

OW100201Y Malolos International Service in English 0710 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] President Ferdinand Marcos says he favors the immediate implementation of the preliminary agreement reached between the Philippines and the United States on American military bases in the country. That preliminary agreement envisions that a Filipino military officer shall be appointed as commander of the U.S. bases. The preliminary agreement covers the five American military bases in the Philippines, including Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. The appointment of a Filipino commander is in acknowledgement of Philippine sovereignty over the bases.

President Marcos expressed his desire for immediate implementation of the preliminary agreement in a television interview program in Manila. The chief executive also said the conclusion of the negotiations on the military agreement would mean that the Philippines and the United States can proceed to discuss a trade agreement. The original Philippine-United States trade agreement expired in 1975 but was extended up to 1976. Since that time trading between the two countries has been on a free-wheeling basis [as heard]. President Marcos said that existing talks on a new trade pact have concentrated on such products as coconut oil and Philippine mahogany.

Another subject taken up in the 1-hour television interview program was the question of martial rule in the Philippines. President Marcos said martial law can be lifted even before the end of the 6-year term of the Interim National Assembly. Elections for the 200-seat assembly are scheduled next month. President Marcos stated that the only issue in the coming election is the achievements attained under 5 years of martial rule. The chief executive stressed that the term of the Interim National Assembly would not be more than 6 years. Still on the coming election, the president said members of his cabinet who fail to win a seat will have to give up their cabinet post.

Warns About Local Elections

OW100518Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0428 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] Manila, 10 Mar (AFP)--Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos has warned he may call off the provincial and town elections planned for next December if political fighting and factional strife among local officials continues. Mr Marcos issued the warning in a political rally and in a separate interview with newsmen while campaigning in nearby Batangas Province for government candidates in the 7 April Interim National Assembly elections.

Speaking in Lipa City in Batangas, Mr Marcos warned he would reconsider the calling of the year-end elections [if] "divisions and fratricidal strife within towns and provinces" resulted in dividing the people and prejudiced national development programs. He also warned he would "kick out" of office any official who would abandon his role of implementing government programs and instead concentrate on improving his political stock.

Mr Marcos noted that in some areas, government candidates under the banner of the "New Society Movement" faced no opposition in the upcoming parliamentary elections and, as a result, were now competing with each other to be election topnotchers. Presidential palace sources also said Mr Marcos' warning was sparked by reports that a number of officials were now busy strengthening their political fences in anticipation of the provincial elections.

Deploring signs of "divisive" activity in the country after 5-1/2 years of martial law, Mr Marcos said: "We may quarrel in politics but as a people we must show foreigners and the whole world that we are united in our efforts to maintain a strong and stable nation."

Mr Marcos said he planned to call the interim assembly to its first session not later than the last week of May.

AQUINO ADMITS 'WORKING WITH' CIA IN TELEVISED INTERVIEW

OW101158Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Manila, 10 Mar (AFP)--Imprisoned opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. tonight admitted having provided information to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) about the communist movement in the Philippines, but denied he was a CIA agent.

Mr Aquino, recently accused by Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile of links with the CIA, made the disclosure at a television program "Face the Nation" which was taped from his detention quarters in a suburban army camp. Mr. Aquino, 44, also admitted in the interview that he had had contacts with the communist "New People's Army" (NPA) but branded government claims he was a communist as "a terrible lie." He explained he made the contacts with the NPA, military arm of the outlawed communist party, in pursuit of his duty as senator of nearby Tarlac Province in order to know what was happening in his region.

Concerning his alleged CIA connections before President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and ordered his arrest, Mr. Aquino said it was true he had "worked with" the CIA on three occasions in the past, but this was on orders from Philippine presidents at the time. He said there was a great deal of difference between "working with" the CIA and "working for" it, which he had not done.

Elaborating, Mr. Aquino said it was normal for the Philippines and the U.S., being allies, to exchange intelligence information. "We are meant to have a bilateral mutual defense agreement and therefore...intelligence agencies exchange information. Now Philippine agencies work with these agencies, but to say that they work for them and make them mercenary, that is a very, very great distinction," Mr. Aquino added.

Mr. Aquino was sentenced to death by firing squad by a military tribunal last 25 November on charges of subversion, murder and illegal possession of firearms. President Marcos, his chief political rival, however ordered a re-trial after Mr. Aquino charged he was denied his right to be heard. The charge-sheet against Mr. Aquino claims he is a ranking leader of the communist party.

However, in a televised interview last week, Sec. Enrile declassified what he said were confidential documents also showing links between Mr. Aquino and the CIA.

Mr. Aquino's unprecedented television appearance tonight after 5-1/2 years of martial law detention came at the height of a political campaign here for regional elections next 7 April to a 200-man Interim National Assembly.

Mr. Aquino is the spearhead of a 21-man opposition ticket dubbed "People's Power" which is running in the metropolitan Manila region, opposed to a government slate headed by Mr. Marcos' wife and first lady Mrs. Imelda Marcos.

Elaborating on his past undercover work for the Philippine Government, Mr Aquino recalled the 1958 "Colonels Revolt" in Indonesia in which he said the Philippines "was greatly involved." Mr Aquino recalled that supplies for the rebels originally came from Taiwan but because of the very long flight, planes ferrying the supplies flew from Taiwan to refuel at the American Clark Air Base located 80 kms (50 miles) north of here.

Mr Aquino said that in sending him on his Indonesian mission, President Garcia told him he (Mr Garcia) wanted to be sure that no Filipino base in the southern Philippines would be used to mount an attack against Indonesia. Unfortunately, Mr Aquino said, a mercenary pilot was shot down over Ambon and captured alive. "In 2 days Mr Sukarno (former Indonesian leader) was putting him all over the international press as a CIA mercenary and that folded the entire mission. Then I came back to the Philippines," Mr Aquino said.

MILITARY SOURCE ON RIGHT TO CLAIM SPRATLY ISLANDS

OW100719Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0712 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Zamboanga City, 10 Mar (AFP)--The Philippines has as much right as People's China and Vietnam to lay claim over some of the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. A ranking military source at the Southern Command (Southcom) said today. The source was commenting on reports that Philippine troops last 2 March occupied Panata Island in the Spratly--a move that drew condemnation Wednesday from a Foreign Ministry spokesman in People's China, which has affirmed Chinese sovereignty over the Spratleys. The Spratley region is reportedly less than 300 miles from the Philippines, and a little over 300 miles from Vietnam, which has also staked a claim over some of the islands in the area. Another claimant is Taiwan.

"If China can lay claim to it, if Vietnam can lay claim to it, why not the Philippines, which is nearer to the area than these two countries," the Southcom source said. News of Philippine occupation of Panata, the seventh island occupied by the Philippines in the disputed region, closely precedes the state visit to be made here by Chinese Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, who is due to arrive in Manila next Sunday. In Manila, the Foreign Office spokesman refused to comment on the reported Chinese condemnation of the Philippine move, saying that for any reaction, newsmen should go to the defense department.

VISITING DPRK OFFICIALS DISCUSS DIPLOMATIC TIES

OW100153Y Malolos International Service in English 0710 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Text] A two-member official group from North Korea is in the Philippines to follow up moves to establish diplomatic ties between North Korea and the Philippines. The visitors are (Choe Tae-yon), chief of the Asian institute of North Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and (Kim Han-chol), a Foreign Affairs officer.

Initial talks on the establishment of diplomatic ties were held last year between the Philippines' first lady Madame Imelda Marcos and a North Korean vice premier. The discussions took place during Madame Marcos' visit to Nepal.

The two-man North Korean delegation paid a courtesy call on Wednesday on Labor Secretary Blas Ople. During the meeting Secretary Ople stressed that the most urgent need of developing countries in Asia is the consolidation of peace and security in the region.

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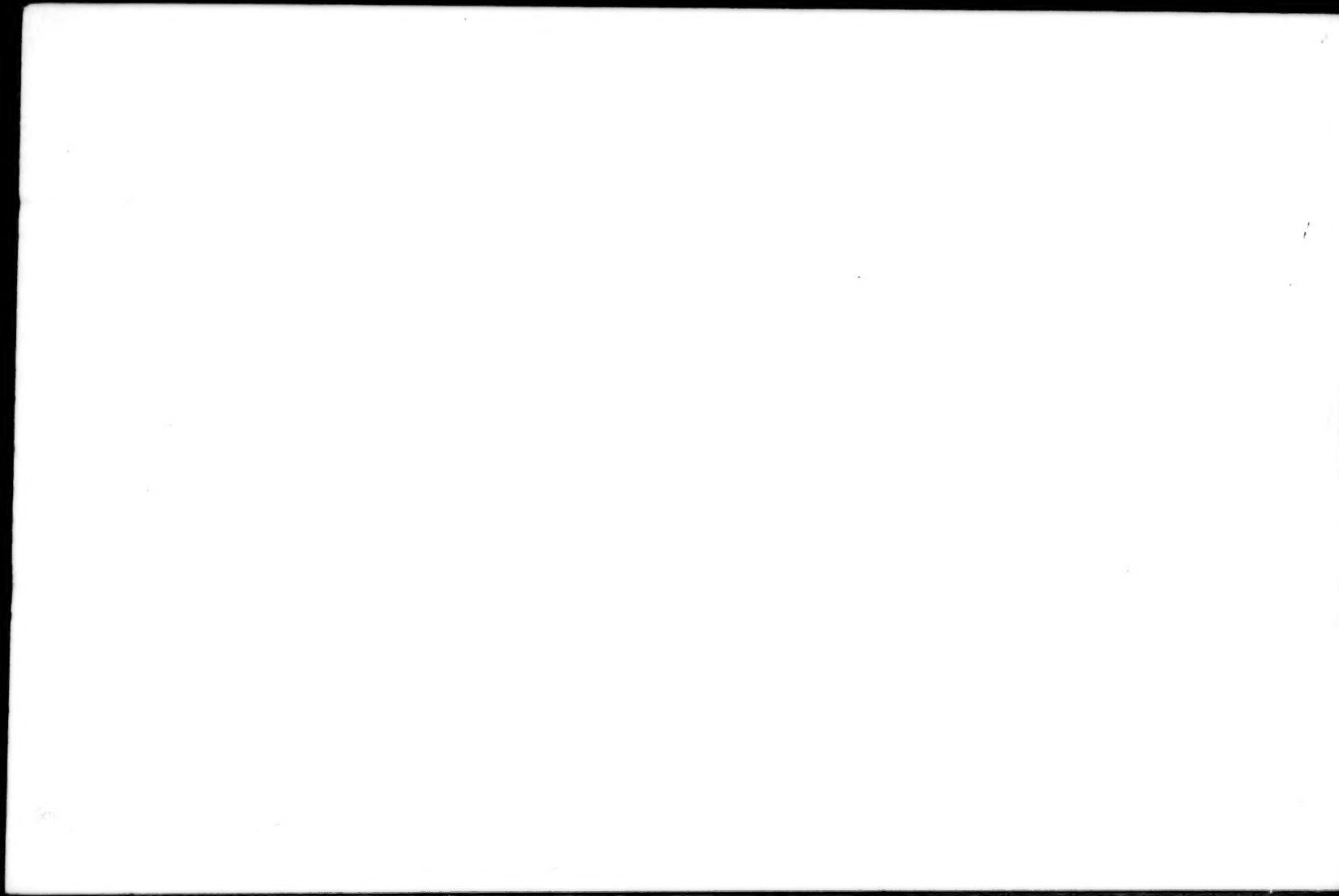
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